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ATTACK ON AMERICA?

SEPTEMBER 13 / 2001 [54.06]

Tears shed in the wake of catastrophe

by Kevin Groves and Darren Stewart

Over 700 people from the university community gathered outside the MacLaurin building Tuesday to reflect on the tragedy in the United States.

At 10:38 am Eastern Standard Time (EST), both towers of the World Trade Center collapsed after two hijacked airliners struck them.

At 9:43 am EST time, a third airliner struck the Pentagon and collapsed one side of the five-sided structure.

Official death tolls remain unconfirmed as a coordinated rescue effort began yesterday to search the rubble for survivors.

The UVic Champlain's office organized the memorial event on behalf of university President David Turpin to begin at 3pm. Hundreds of people stopped to listen and to share moments of silence and reflection.

Turpin said the acts of terrorism put him in a state of shock, dismay and anxiety.

"Thousands of lives of many of our friends and family have been destroyed," he said.

He said he is still contemplating what the event means for the shared future of North Americans.

"This is the closest to home in a long time."

UVSS Chair Jaime Matten attended with the rest of the society executives. She said the event at UVic was an important way to acknowledge a terrible tragedy.

"As an academic community it's definitely important to acknowledge the atrocities not only in our own back yard but all over the planet."

People in the crowd were moved to tears as a brass quartet played a somber number before a moment of silence. Some students expressed shock, saying it was too early to know how to react appropriately.

Cheryl Laing, a second year science student, was reluctant to comment.

"My roommate's mom watched it and thought it was a movie," she said. "I feel invaded even though it wasn't Canada that was attacked." She said she was offended by some of the knee-jerk reactions seen on mainstream media which suggested that the events were caused directly by a lack of defense spending in the U.S.

Johnson Yeh, a master of economics student, said he had just seen the news and felt personally affected.

"It's pretty scary considering my family flies home on a regular basis," he said.

UVic student Morgan Stewart said a friend woke him this morning in tears and told him to turn on the T.V.

"I asked him what channel to turn to and he said every channel," Stewart said.

Stewart suggested that this event may have been caused by recent US foriegn policy, though he wanted to wait until more information was available before deciding how he felt.

"It's a creation of the American imperialist system but now is not the time to talk about that," Stewart said.

He added that he felt sincere sympathy for those affected by the events, but expressed concern over US plans to retaliate and mentioned that Canada should take a leading role in preventing an overly miltaristic response.

"[The US] will likely close their borders and isolate themseves now," Stewart said. "Canadians should now reach out to the US people and let them know that there is an alternative to the retribution they're promising."

The university was open Tuesday but administrators allowed the decision to cancel any classes to be up to the discretion of individual faculty members. Counselling service is available to provide crisis counselling in the wake of the tragic events. Call 721-8341.

photo by Richard Warrington

Economic downturn means social cuts on the way

by Kevin Groves

Students may feel the government pinch in the next few months after Finance Minister Gary Collins announced recently that the provincial economy will grow much slower than forecasted in the July mini-budget.

Some critics fear the economic slowdown predicted for months may lead to large funding cuts to health care and education programs.

"Mr. Collins is finally admitting what economists have been saying for some time: Huge, high income and corporate tax cuts will not yield the big economic returns promised by the Liberals in the election," said provincial NDP leader Joy MacPhail. "That means that the Campbell government is going to cut health and education programs to pay for their tax giveaway."

Originally Collins forecasted provincial growth would be about 2.2 per cent this year and 3.8 per cent next year due to the stimulation of the economy brought about by the tax cuts, which would have been responsible for 0.4 per cent of the projected growth this year and 1.1 per cent next year.

Now, six weeks later, Statistics Canada reported that the national economy dropped to an annual growth rate of just 0.4 per cent, with consumer spending and housing dropping dramatically in the last quarter.

Campbell was unavailable for comment but admitted to other media that B.C. growth could be as much as a full percentage point lower than his original forecast. A spokesman within his office added that the slowdown will be longer than anticipated. "[The slowdown] is not a recession, and hopefully things will start rebounding in the US in the next few months," he said.

But UVic economists continue to maintain that the government's fiscal projections were too optimistic from the start.

"What [Collins] quoted in July was a very optimistic growth rate for the BC economy," Joseph Scaafsma, chair of UVic's economics department said. "The 3.8 per cent, for example, is a very high growth rate and quite unusual to attain. Nationally, the average growth rate is between two to three per cent."

Some factors involved in the economic slowdown include dips in the American economy, the US's crippling 19.3 per cent duty on Canadian softwood lumber, the low cost of natural gas and the Pharmacare drug plan, which is projected to cost the B.C. Liberals more than $700 million this year alone.

"US figures are down, and they were approaching negative growth last quarter, which obviously affects B.C. since we're tied with the North American economy," Scaafsma said. "What we're seeing is a much more rapid decline than predicted a year ago where everyone thought we'd have a pretty soft economic landing this year."

Now that the Liberals may be finally facing the grim reality of the controversial tax cut plan, the big question for students is what post-secondary programs may be on the chopping block in the coming months. MacPhail said that further tuition fee reductions are now very unlikely.

"They're gone," MacPhail said, "and funding for third and fourth year grants for students may also now be at risk."

MacPhail added that student visibility this year will be a critical factor in addressing issues related to post-secondary education. "Now more than ever is time for students to be vigilant and active," she said.

UVic Political Scientist Norman Ruff added that there will now most likely be a reduction in government services over the next few months which would have far reaching repercussions toward maintianing accessibility to higher learning in this province.

"[The B.C. Liberals] are in serious trouble now," Ruff said. "They've decided to keep the freeze for another year, but what we may see now is cuts in capital expenditures, and funds to accomodate increased demands to students, which will affect how many courses are offered," Ruff said. "If the courses you want aren't offered then the tuition freeze is an empty promise."

Summer McFadyen, BC Chair of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) added that Collins's announcement may have had a more sinister overtone than the B.C. Liberals were willing to admit.

"The government seems to have deliberately created a fiscal crisis when they removed $1.5 billion from the provincial treasury," McFadyen said. "It is important to remember that the province's current financial state was not inevitable, not the result of the economy, and should not be treated as an excuse to cut programs that will affect students."

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Waitlists growing in some departments

by Lorna Mace

For most post-secondary students, going back to school means enduring inevitable waitlists.

It's common for first year classes to have waitlists in the same numbers of the classes themselves. Thanks to systems like TeleReg and WebReg, students can phone in or log-on every day to find out what their status is in a particular class. In some faculties the demand for certain classes is rising while the numbers of sections offered are staying the same.

Andrew Rippin, Dean of Humanities, uses the history department as an example of the rising demands for more class sections. According to the department, 31 per cent of history students are waitlisted. That's a 70 per cent increase in waitlisted students in that particular department since last year.

In the English department waitlists have stayed relatively average this year but average still means there are waitlists for some first year English courses that are almost as large as the sections themselves. Rippin explains that there has been no decrease in sections, simply an increase in demand from students. In many cases, there isn't enough physical space for more classes and in others, there just isn't enough funding. Rippin said he's not sure when these demands will be met. "Ultimately, it comes down to a government decision on university funding."

Until funding is increased, the administration will assess the wait-lists for spring classes, and try to add sections where there is the most demand.

Waitlists are not exclusive to classes. UVic housing often has a waitlist with over half as many names as there are beds on campus. According to Steve Fitterer, the manager of on and off-campus housing, these numbers are similar from year to year.

"I believe that a large percentage of UVic's students are from out of town and need to arrange for alternate accommodation," said Fitterer. On average, there are 4300 to 5000 applications for residence at UVic. Not all of those students decide to come to UVic, yet there are only 1600 beds to meet the needs of the out-of-town students.

"Statistically, these numbers are very similar from year to year," said Fitterer. "I think that demand at most institutions is quite high but I think it may be a little higher at UVic than others."

This year is no exception.

"I do indeed have approximately 850 students on our waitlist," said Fitterer. Fitterer said UVic recognizes the need for more on-campus housing.

"I know this is a very real concern and UVic as an institution is motivated to address the shortage."

The university discussed expanding current residences and is considering a proposal that may increase beds as soon as 2003. Academically, however, students may not be so lucky. It could seem that waitlists are getting worse. Until government funding is increased, there is no end in sight to the frustration for students and administration, and the time-consuming practice of juggling of classes and sections.

UVic population increasing

by Jeff Werner

During these first two weeks of school you may notice people standing, sitting on the floor, or lined up outside classrooms waiting for that golden slip of paper that says they can grab a seat in the class. These students number among the 600 or so that are waitlisted for classes at UVic.

Enrollment at the University of Victoria increased again this year, with 11,246 full-time equivalent undergrads currently registered, while the provincial government funded target for Nov. 1 is 10,631.

There are approximately 250 more first year students attending UVic than there were last year and an overall increase of approximately 600 people.

While there are still not enough seats for accepted students, UVic spokesperson Robie Liscomb says applications to UVic have increased nearly 14 per cent this year. He says the university is aware that enrollment is above the November 1 projected target, but that post-secondary education enrollment numbers are not just a Victoria issue.

"We know B.C. has this huge access problem," says Liscomb, adding that it is difficult for universities to predict the number of potential applicants.

David Glen, UVic's Associate Administrative Registrar, says some one of the worst waitlisted areas at UVic is English, especially English 115. Glen added that the number of students waitlisted across campus this term is no worse than in previous years.

There are currently 33 sections of English 115, offered this fall, each holding a maximum of 24 students, and many sections have between 10 and 20 people waiting for a seat. That means hundreds of students may have to wait until next year to get credit in a course that many undergrad degrees require.

It is up to the individual academic department to decide the class numbers, said Glen.

It's not just UVic that's substantially low on seats this year. Camosun College's three-year nursing program enrolled 115 first-years and is currently holding nearly 400 applicants at bay, with up to a two-year waiting list.

Racism conference controversy felt at home

by Elissa Bergman

Local activists are concerned about Canada's lack of participation at the United Nations World Conference on Racism held last week in Durban, South Africa.

Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley's decided to snub the conference the day after US Secretary of State Colin Powell backed out.

"I think they acted the way they did for American interests," said Sharmeen Khan, from the University of Victoria's Students of Color Collective. "Was that a coincidence? I don't think so."

Canadian officials were concerned about a supposed anti-Isreal thrust to some agenda items. Canada sent Hedy Fry, the Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and a comparitively low-ranking minister in Manley's place. The United States sent a mid-level State Department official to lead its delegation. Israel boycotted the whole proceedings.

"In some aspects, the U.S. wasn't interested in the conference at all, and the Israel thing just gave them a good chance to back out," Khan said.

During the week-long conference an argument was heard through a closed-door meeting between Canadian diplomats and presentatives of Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) about whether Canada should remain at the conference since the United States and Israel had pulled out.

"I think that the racism conference was a perfect place to talk about the problem in the Middle East, but U.S. and Israel refused," said Khan.

Many developing nations were intent on tackling the issue of racism at the conference and most European countries sent foreign ministers or other top-level representatives.

Khan said she was disappointed with Canada's conduct by not sending Manley.

"Obviously the legitimacy is comprised when really powerful countries back out, says Khan. "If they had stayed, I don't know if it would have made the conference better, but if Canada had better analysis it would speak to the political climate in Canada. As a Canadian women of color, I was looking forward to my government talking about an issue they never talk about."

Khan said the conference provided the opportunity to generate language around anti-racism but Canada is still in denial of its own racism.

Gordon deFrane of UVic's Native Students Union Canada also expressed concerns saying the largest oppressed group in Canada is the First Nations peoples and the conference was an opportunity to discuss the issues.

"Why in a first world country do we have people living in third world situations?" asked deFrane.

He said that Canada has many unresolved racism issues.

"I think Canada needs to be called on it," he said. "How for seven years now has Canada been rated the best place to live when such a dichotomy exists?"

"If the U.S., now the world leader, cannot or will not accept the racism it created or has existing, than why should any other country do anything," added deFrane.

Canada later disassociated itself from the final declaration document that conference delegations worked towards. The meeting ended with delegates still deeply divided on the wording of the final declaration.

photo by Darren Stewart

The Victoria Indymedia collective encouraged students to "take out there angst on mainstream media" and smash a televisoin at clubs day Monday.

photo by Kevin Groves

Chuck Wootten, Andrew McVie and Lisa Karoway sit in front of various pro-George Dubya propaganda and the American flag. Clubs day draws all sorts of people, including one table featuring the Coke club (for people who like drinking coke!) and the Young Republicans. The members insisted that their clubs are not a joke.

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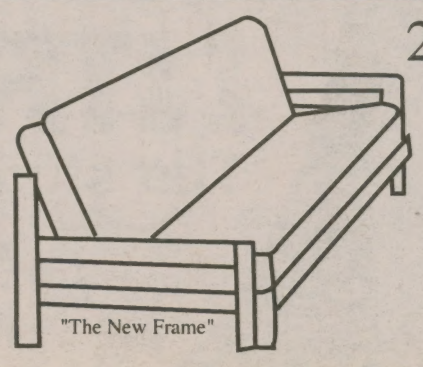

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Grannies hold nuke demo outside Cinecenta

by Tim Holloway

A handful of Raging Grannies turned up to Cinecenta last week and it wasn't to give the movie a rave review.

The Grannies held a noisy demonstration in front of Cinecenta after a showing of *Dr. Strangelove*, a movie intended as a satire about an accidental nuclear attack. They said they wanted to take the chance to inform people that nuclear vessels from the United States regularly visit Victoria and Nanaimo.

"[We were] protesting nuclear vessels and weapons, not [US] military personnel," said Ruth Miller, a new member of the Raging Grannies.

The Grannies agreed it seems strange to make a comic movie about something so horrifying but said *Dr. Strangelove* is essentially an anti-war film, showing the absurdity of nuclear war.

Miller said the Grannies are concerned about the younger generation's access to food and clean water and how the threat of nuclear disaster could affect that. The demonstration was also intended to draw attention to George Bush's proposed missile shield project.

Alison Acker, another granny who came to the theatre, said she was surprised at how many young people hadn't heard of Bush's controversial plan and was glad for the opportunity to demonstrate on campus.

The Raging Grannies are a group of ladies of ages ranging from 45 to 80 who started out in 1987 in Victoria with the intention of increasing awareness about nuclear power, warfare, and bombs.

According to their handouts, US nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers can be found near Beacon Hill Park and pass Victoria on their way to the Canadian Forces Maritime Experimental Test Range in Nanoose.

Last November the Grannies rallied against racism and were treated with scorn at a Canadian Alliance function.

"[Alliance leader] Stockwell Day had said things that were repellent to the Grannies," said Miller. Four of the Grannies held up a banner that said "Grannies Against Racism" during Day's meeting at Laurel Point Inn. At first, some of Day's supporters held up placards to block their banner, then someone pushed the banner down from behind.

Day thanked World War II veterans for going to war to protect freedom of speech, which is being abused right now, then pointed to the Grannies. Day later told a CBC reporter that he had never heard of the Raging Grannies and he was referring to others rally.

photo provided

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Student society meeting briefs

The UVSS held their first meeting of the academic year on Monday night. here are the highlights.

UPass referendum

The UPass deal hit a roadblock on the way to final approval by the University.

The four part deal between the UVSS, GSS, UVic and BC Transit is now secure until 2004 but beyond that the future of the program is open to question.

Back in March, the deal was to up the UPass ante to $47, with the University supplying an additional $170 000 in parking pass revenue to offset the cost of the program.

Now the University is reluctant to commit to the deal since the UVSS referendum question ratified the UPass, and UVic's annual contribution, as an indefinite measure. UVSS Director of Finance Jonas Gifford said that anticipated cutbacks from the provincial government are a prime factor in the University's hesitation.

"Their fear is simply that their funding will be cut back," Gifford said. "But we need that permanent contract because we have a permanent program and we need the University's participation in it."

The University agreed to subsidize the UPass program until August 31st 2004, but beyond that Gifford forecasts his successor a few years from now will have to sell the UPass again to the University.

"They did mention, that they'd give us 8 months notice of any changes they'd like to make," Gifford said.

Girl Guides on campus

A decision to ratify Links, a Girl Guide organization as a campus club was controvertial because the group allows exclusively female membership. The society's constitution states that groups must be entirely inclusive to both sexes. The student society voted to allow the club to exist on the condition that they would align their rules with the society's constitution. The Girl Guide group is interested in establishing a presence on campus for its members and said it would comply with UVSS rules.

Get involved fools!

UVSS Director of Academics Sarah Webb said she spent much of the first week of school letting UVic students know why the UVSS exists and how students can be involved in their decision making processes. She visited classrooms in programs that are housed in seperate buildings and aren't typically in contact with the Students' Society. Webb said it's important that as many students get involved as possible and invited people to the committee meetings where all decisions are made. The dates and times for the meetings are posted outside the UVSS Resource Centre in the SUB and will be posted on the new bulliten boards that the society put in every campus building.

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Search for Roy McFarlane ends, legacy remains

by John Thompson

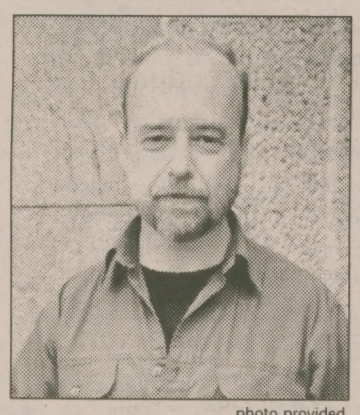

photo provided

When Victoria loses a part of itself, you notice the difference. The community picks itself up and searches for what's lost.

That's what happened this summer when respected community activist Roy McFarlene disappeared. The popular and respected Victoria resident disappeared May 14 after leaving his workplace, Munroe's Books, on his bike. His disappearance triggered a community-wide search.

Hundreds of volunteers helped with the campaign, covering Greater Victoria in a blanket of posters. The email campaign spread further – from Toronto I felt the ripples with email after email calling for help in finding him.

Victorians clung to hope over the summer but the search ended Thursday, July 26, when McFarlene's body was found in the Inner Harbour, still wearing his bike helmet.

No foul-play is suspected – it's believed McFarlene had an accident or sudden trauma, such as an aneurysm, that caused him to fall into the ocean.

While the efforts spent to find McFarlene was remarkable, you could say they pale in comparison to the tireless work he did to improve the world we live in.

McFarlene established the successful weekly poetry series, "Sundays at the JBI," in Victoria. The poetry night recently received a Canada Council grant; unfortunately, it was awarded too late for Roy to see this achievement come to fruition.

During the provincial election, McFarlene managed the Green Party's campaign in the Victoria-Beacon Hill riding.

"Over 20 per cent of people in his riding voted Green. Perhaps the largest Green vote anywhere, ever, in Canada," McFarlene's friend Al Rycroft wrote in a tribute.

McFarlene was also a key organizer of the Earth Walk, Canada's largest per capita Earth Day related event. Last year the walk became the Justice Walk, coinciding with the protests against the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City.

On August 1, a memorial for McFarlene was held in St. Ann's Academy, which filled to capacity. Those who knew Roy described him as kind and gentle, dedicated to furthering his community.

"He was 45 when he died, he was young, but he accomplished a great deal and contributed a lot to his community," Rycroft said.

McFarlene's life may have ended prematurely, but the legacy he left behind will last.

Protesters prepare for 2002 G8 summit in Alberta

by John Thompson

World leaders have a difficult time meeting in public these days.

As of yet, there are no plans to hold a large economic summit on the moon, but organizers for the upcoming G8 meeting in Kananaskis are doing their best to escape a protest mobilization.

The first spokescouncil to plan protest and action around this meeting was held in Edmonton on August 26. Over 100 activists and representatives from various groups attended to discuss how to register dissent on the upcoming meeting of eight leaders of the worlds largest economies.

Most of the activists were from Edmonton or Calgary, but visitors from Winnipeg, Toronto, Thunder Bay, Vancouver, Victoria and one vistor from Europe took part in the meeting. The meeting included representatives from the Green Party, The Raging Grannies, various labour organizations, the Council of Canadians, Mob4Glob and many others. Environmental groups such as the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society sent members concerned about the potential harm a mass protest mobilization could have on the forest surrounding Kananaskis. Also in attendance were members of the Strathcona Ewok Cluster, a group that plans cat and mouse tactics with police in the forest surrounding Kananaskis much like the furry Ewoks in *Return of the Jedi.*

The determination of protesters fighting corporate-driven globalization has driven global summits to increasingly remote locations. The next WTO meeting will be held in tiny Qatar, a mid-eastern country with little tolerance for civil disobedience. The last meeting of the G8, the world's most powerful national economies, was met with large-scale protests in Genoa, Italy.

The next G8 will be held in the small community of Kananaskis in the Rocky Mountains accessed by only one road.

Brian Bradley, a Victoria teacher and activist, drove to Edmonton with two other B.C. residents. He said the meeting focussed on the question if activists ought to go to Kananaskis or focus the mobilization elsewhere, out of concern for the environment. Environmental groups will conduct an environmental assessment and the results will be discussed at upcoming spokescouncil meetings.

Another factor in the location of a mass protest will be the relationship between the federal government and the Stony First Nation, who have a reserve near Kananaskis. Activists hope the Stony Nation will be sympathetic to the needs of protesters. Bradley said after years of neglect, the Stony Reserve suddenly has the attention of the federal government.

He said the Kananaskis protests will probably more closely resemble the Clayoquot Sound demonstrations, rather than past street battles against globalization. He guessed that activities will be loose-knit and decentralized.

Alternatives to entering Kananaskis were also discussed, such as moving the protest to Calgary or Canmore or focussing actions on the TransCanada Highway leading to the area.

While Bradley thinks Kananaskis won't draw the same numbers as the Summit of the Americas did, he's happy to see activist infrastructure continue to grow in Alberta.

"The networks that get built up are more important in some ways – they're what lasts."

Minutes of the Edmonton meeting will be posted at www.g8.activist.ca

The next spokescouncil meeting will be held in Calgary on Sept. 22 and everybody is welcome.

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Cosmos without gravitation: a local theorist gives voice to a controversial idea

by Philosopher Ken

"The fundamental theory of this paper is: gravitation is an electromagnetic phenomenon."
Velikovsky, Cosmos Without Gravitation, 1946

Velikovsky presents unpopular opinion, but I also see gravity as an electromagnetic phenomenon. In the 55 years since this paper, we know that the earth, sun, galaxies are all extremely highly charged. Space itself is charged higher than we can measure and the calculations stretch into infinities. This energy that space *is* is known in physics as the Quantum Potential as pioneered by physicist-philosopher David Bohm. Einstein spoke of Bohm as his intellectual successor while other academics ignored his work or abused him personally.

As I see it, the Quantum Potential is the same perception of phenomena as Velikovsky, the Ether electrical universe of Nikola Tesla and the Plasma cosmos of Nobel winning physicist, Hannes Alfven.

All of these relate to the fact that the earth, solar system, galaxy and universe behave as enormous rotating electromagnets. Through this awareness many conflicting problems in gravitational and nuclear theories become clearer. They fit as dynamic aspects in a wholistic presence of energy not governed by gravity or nuclear processes. Rather they reveal gravitational and atomic manifestations through the active work of electromagnetics on infinitely small, large, visible and invisible scales of existence. This is what I see when I look. Bohm sees the explicate/ visible/material manifestations of the known force(s) originating in, and sustained by implicate/ hidden/ subquantum processes enfolded in the whole and present quantum potential. Velikovsky's theory of universal gravity as an electromagnetic phenomenon recognized the activity of charges in the atom, free charges, magnetic fields in the sun and planets, and from this he was able to explain many global and cosmic events with as much accuracy as his contemporaries. His theory explained how all the planets revolved in approximately one plane; the retrograde/reverse motion of many moons and planets; influences among the planets with each other; Mercury's increasing rotation; light deflecting past the sun; the repulsion of a comet's tail by the sun; the influence of the moon on radio reception; the defiance of gravity by water and cloud building; increased gravity over the seas but not the heavier continents among other things. The point is: electromagnet theory explains what gravity can and cannot do, and does so simply (a requirement in science).

Academia will deny this, but most astronomical observations in the last 50 years have affirmed this thesis. Yet it is generally unknown or taboo in universities, and unheard of in the public mind. This seems more a matter of how data is interpreted and the business of preserving sacred cows than genuine investigation into reality. But proof for this view mounts and persists. Ralph Juergens wrote in 1972 that the phenomena of the sun's photosphere, chromosphere and corona, combined with the known characteristics of the interplanetary medium of space all implied that the sun's energy was not derived from within (thermonuclear reactions) but supplied from outside, as if an anode collecting current from its environment, then radiating this energy through electrical discharge. The core observation here is that the sun is highly charged, but not as high as interplanetary/cosmic space and therefore acts as a sink for this energy; the planets are also highly charged but less so than the sun and space.

As far back as 1803 (Erman) and 1836 (Peltier) earth was known to be electrically charged in the negative. Tesla re-proved this in the 1890's and also showed that free-energy could be tapped directly from the ground anywhere on earth without wires or mega-corps to monopolize it. In the 1940's, Bruce showed that galaxies were charges and discharges of electrical processes, and Lerner with Alfven showed this same observation in the 1970-90's. Bodies in charged space also have an electromagnetic sheath or bubble (trailing a tail) which surrounds them and insulates from the higher charge of space. Juergens equates earth's sheath with the magnetosphere/van Allen belts (which Velikovsky identified before van Allen), and which I equate as positive confirmation of what Michelson and Morley missed in the late 19th century when they dismissed the ether of space (paving the way for Einstein's empty vacuum cosmos). Orthodoxy would have us believe that gravity is the only explanation for most celestial phenomena even when it clearly isn't, and the argument that electromagnetic processes and charged-space couldn't account for celestial mechanics is now dismissed as false and misleading. It is celestial and quantum mechanics. That the universe is 99 per cent plasma (electrically conducting gases) and does order celestial and atomic bodies through electromagnetic (attraction-repulsion-conduction) workings, speaks for itself. The problem with this theory is not the evidence but the rejection of evidence by established scientists who prefer their own interpretations, contorting information into old theories. Add to this the fact that there is no real or open discussion on these matters and you have the Big Bang theory as it has stood for over half a century.

In the book, *The Big Bang Never Happened*, Eric Lerner shows clear proof for the Plasma Cosmology unspoken in university classrooms or texts. In infinite plasma space there are immense conglomerations of galaxies called clusters and superclusters; colossal ladders and strings of electromagnetic plasma filaments made of charged gases and galaxies, unknown millions of stars, planets, comets, dust, people and frequencies upon frequencies of charged and streaming, moving densities within densities of energy-matter-space. The most immediate and devastating problem for big bang theory is that by mathematical calculation of the "known" universe the cosmos can be no older than 10 to 15 billion years- such is the closed shape of the big bang in equations and on paper. However, some observed superclusters are so immense they would take 60-100 billion years to form, others, over 150 billion years. That is a huge problem for big bang cosmologists and it is a crisis for our popular modern creation myth. Academic reactions ignored this info, then appropriated it, re-calculated it (offering dark matter as a response), then ignore it again. The general public has no sense that this debate is even going on.

If you are reading this and wondering why cosmology matters or doesn't, believing it has no relevance to the core issues facing us in our present social conditions, consider this: as above, so below.

Lerner shows that societies in history that have a finite cosmology (big bang, beginning/end) tend to be more deprecating, close-minded and ruled by academics with unquestioned authority. In societies with infinite cosmologies there is shown to be more common freedom, freethinking openness to ideas and people of diversity; more truly democratic, connected and valuing both nature and people in higher esteem–acting accordingly. Oversimplified but true enough. The cosmological debate over an infinite or finite universe relates and manifests directly in our actions and ideas in our everyday world and in how we view nature and ourselves in it. Societies throughout history have swung between finite and infinite cosmologies, this is how it has always been and will be, and we are in another swing of perspective again. As Lerner says, "The core of the cosmological debate is a question of how truth is known," and consequently how it is applied and lived. How these vital questions are answered will shape the coming history of humanity as it has shaped our past to get here.

As for big bang? Who honestly knows? We are too small and the universe so infinite that anything could be going on. We mustn't fool ourselves into believing that we have or can attain the whole truth. That is dishonesty, self-deception and leads to egomania, dogma and eventual destruction. As I see it today: the universe is dynamic energy, gravity isn't gravity, mind is an unknown and unconsidered universal variable in science, and big bang theory should not rule by default or ignorance. If a theory contradicts observations it must be abandoned no matter how well liked, familiar, safe and funded, it is. As Lerner says, science (and society alike) is only useful when it provides an increasingly true and deep description of nature, not a prescription for how it should be, held to at all costs. A healthier view of the truly creative and organic universe will eventually re-vitalize our destructive society and embody us more fully in our local, global and universal connections. By expanding our minds to the expanded cosmos we will more clearly see our social and individual problems in a new and brighter light, for we are truly dim now and are so by means of our interpretations of it, which infect our behaviours in it. Remember there is no gravity without levity, no down without up, no yin without yang in the one Tao. How we view and think the world directly affects how we act towards *it* and each other. We've been down so long, don't we wonder yet what up is really all about? And in the face of our present social and ecological crises related to how we view and (de)value the world, hadn't we better realize it sooner than later?

Ken Rouleau hopes you have something to say about this. Say it to him at zenrouleau@yahoo.ca or write to the Martlet.

NOTE: This year the Martlet is test-running a science column. Let us know what you think (love it? hate it?). Please submit column or ideas to martlet@uvic.ca. Submissions should be no more than 700 words. Thank you.

UVic Graduate Students' Society

ELECTION: OCTOBER 17 - 18, 2001

September 14/01

Nominations Open

for the following Executive Council positions:

* Director of Finance
* Director of Communications
* Director of Student Affairs

* TERM OF OFFICE: NOV. 1/01 - OCT. 31/02

By-Election:

• President • Vice President

* TERM OF OFFICE: NOV. 1/01 - MAR. 31/02

•AGM• Tuesday, October 9, 5:00 pm

Nomination forms available at the GSS Infodesk, Grad Centre or contact:
Maura Parte, GSS General Manager
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Welcome concert a beer garden blast

The concert outside the SUB was crowded all day, the beer tent hoppin', the UVSS pleased and nobody was injured. Life goes on. Phew.

by Anne Larrass

Considering the great variety of talent and the free admission at the WoW concert this year it's surprising that more students didn't show up Friday to check out the lively musical event.

Nevertheless, UVSS Director of Services Michelle Kinney said she was very happy with the turnout Friday.

"I was thrilled with how the event went," she said. "It was the best attended [WoW] event in four years."

An estimated 2000 music lovers showed up on the gorgeous warm and sunny day. Everybody had a groovy time drinking beer and getting reacquainted with people they hadn't seen in a long time. Not to mention checking out some great tunes.

Stacey Lockerbie, a third year Anthropology student, said she liked the selection of bands because it allowed students to get a glimpse of what was going on in the local scene.

"I look forward to this event every year," she said.

photo by Darren Stewart

Bill Farrant, lead singer of Thundersauce, wears funky sunglasses and sings his heart out as the crowd "bears with him."

Some students suggested the UVSS should consider inviting bands and setting up a beer garden every Friday afternoon.

The beer garden was packed from 2:30 until 7pm, while the all-ages section was empty throughout the day. Kinney said that it was "politically wise" to keep a space open for underage students even though the beer garden was full to capacity for most of the day.

The drinks and socializing obviously provided more of an attraction than the music itself, but there was the occasional listener who remembered when to clap. Perhaps it would have helped if the beer garden had not been so far from the stage.

At 3:30 pm, two brave women were the first to enter the open space below the stage and pull off some dance moves.

Interstellar Root Cellar played their funky blend of reggae, funk and rock. The energy of the seven good-looking Calgary artists remained high despite the lack of active crowd response.

"The crowd we attract is always changing," said Andy McAdam, lead singer and bass player. "We don't care who comes, it's music for all different types of people. We always have fun playing together."

McAdam said he feels their music cannot be classified.

"I don't know if you can label us because we play everything."

Chocomo Sound drew the most dancers to the dance floor with their irresistible funky ska-country tunes and also by cleverly bribing the crowd with cd's and other prizes for the best dancers.

The heavy-drinking crowd only showed semi interest in arty rock band Thundersauce's extended jams.

"We're Thundersauce but we've also been known as 'Bear with us,'" said smirking frontman Bill Farrant after a particularly long and indulgent guitar grind.

The band members of IRIS were more interactive with the beer garden crowd.

"Is anybody here in Psychology?" bandmember Ellen Bjelica asked.

"Yeah," said some of the crowd.

"This is where you will end up but they don't tell you that in first year," Bjelica said pointing to the stage.

Jonathan William, lead guitarist of IRIS says that the combination of female and male rock and pop vocals makes them different from regular rock bands.

Jonathan added that the relationship between his band members also differentiated IRIS from other bands.

"We seriously care about one another," he said. "Every time we get together it's like a reunion. We feel like we are brothers and sisters, and that gives us strength."

IRIS performed an excellent show, and they received the most feedback from the crowd. (Perhaps the beer was working its wonders, as well). IRIS was the only band to give an encore, and the dance floor was full for most of the performance.

Originally the UVSS planned to keep serving drinks until 11 pm, but decided to shut down the taps at 10 pm to avoid sending a crowd of rowdy drunkards away from the event at the end.

The Saanich police also set up a roadblock on Ring Road early on Friday.

A surge of on-campus residents joined the crowd later on but the crowd was thinner for headliner Kia. However, the local hip-hop artist's strong stage presence and powerful voice remained intriguing and awe inspiring and captured the attention of those lucky individuals who decided to stay.

But Kia was not impressed with the Saanich Police and addressed the diligent 200 people that stayed until the end.

"I know you can't drink beer anymore because the police suck," she said to the shrinking crowd. "Is anybody out there?"

photo by Darren Stewart

Those good looking fellows in the Interstellar Root Cellar horn section came all the way from Calgary with their bandmembers.

> Is anybody here in Psychology? Yeah, this is where you will end up but they don't tell you that in first year.
>
> *Ellen Bjelica of IRIS*

photo by Darren Stewart

No head shots! Two students sign a waiver and duke it out in the inflatable gladiator challenge.

photo by Darren Stewart

Vertigo beer ninja Chris Smith slung suds all day for the thirsty masses.

UVSS
STUDENT EXTENDED HEALTH PLAN FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Who Can Opt Out?
Undergrad students who are covered under another extended health plan.

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SUB Info Booth Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday Sept 29th & Sunday Sept 30th 12:00 am - 4:00 pm

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Sept.1, 2001 to Sept. 30, 2001

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Acceptable proof consists of one of the following:
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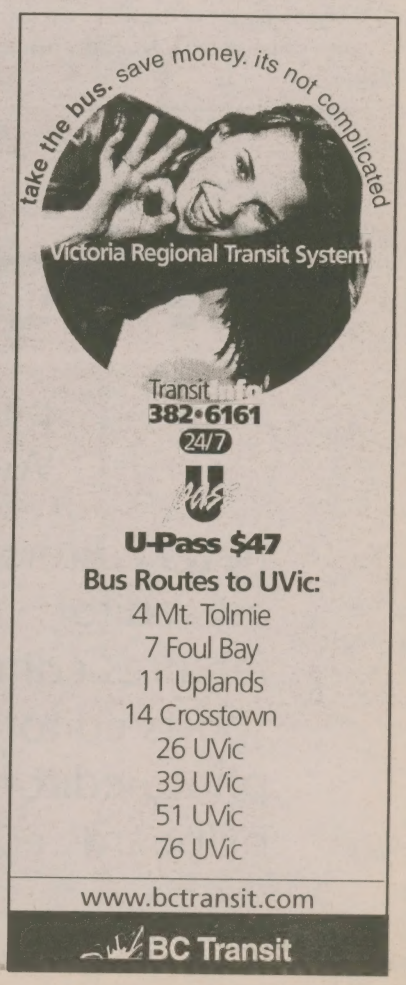

EDITORIAL

The horror, the horror...

All who take the sword shall perish by the sword.
Matthew 26:52

Depending on your age you felt something new on September 11.

Like those who were struck by JFK's death or those who danced at the end of World War II, you will always remember where you were when you heard news of the massive tragedy. Depending on the depth of your experience you lost something Tuesday – a sense of security, a trust in the world, naivete. You turned on the tv and there was the final scene of Fight Club. But it was real.

Many innocent people died with the collapse of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon after hijacked planes struck the buildings. It is a tragedy unparalleled in recent North American history and those directly affected by it deserve to be honoured and remembered. We acknowledge this with sincerity. The anger, sadness and loss many feel is deep and important but does not lead to a greater understanding of the horror.

This tragedy needs context. Of course the western world is quick to label a scapegoat. Terrorism, extremism, Islamic Fundamentalism, a group tied to Timothy McVeigh and all other ill-defined and supposed evils were tossed around the media immediately. But terrorism is not simple and is never an end in itself. It's often an inhumane symptom of injustice. In this case, the injustice that culminated in the events on September 11 is American foreign policy.

A frantic woman tells a CNN reporter that the "terrorist pigs" will pay with their own blood. She says between sobs on the streets of New York City that "killing our children" cannot stand. President George W. Bush said the US will "hunt down and punish" those responsible for the action. He need look no further than his own father.

A decade ago, George Bush Sr. led his country in a war against Iraq. During the war the blood of over 200,000 Iraqis was spilled as the west flexed its muscle to secure oil interests.

Iraq remains under continuous US and British fire to this day. While George Dubya asks God to bless America, hundreds of thousands of Iraqi infants and children die as a result of US-imposed economic sanctions.

Objectively there is no difference between a Boeing 767 crashing into the World Trade Centre and a Tomahawk missle exploding in downtown Baghdad or Belgrade. Those who control North American military force either condone or directly cause the senseless loss of human life every year. To feel immense remorse, unease and anxiety about those in the World Trade Centre is appropriate, but why should the "rogue states" and their children with their respective tragedies be treated any differently.

The media gives us video-game images of "smart bombs" brilliantly destroying "military targets."

The media defamed the Iraqi and Yugoslav dead by glorifying the US war effort. From Iran to Vietnam, from Laos to El Salvador, from Cambodia to Chile to Nicaragua to Panama. What about Kosovo, Columbia and Sierra Leone? The US military has killed millions of civilians and caused mass instability and suffering in the last 50 years. And Canada has been complicit in this state-sponsored violence by not taking a vocal and determined stand against US foreign policy.

You can only push people so far before they lash out, often in a totally irrational and destructive manner.

That's what you get.

The bombs dropped over Teheran, Saigon, Baghdad and Belgrade exploded in Manhattan this week. The American backlash will be immense and brutal. Civil liberties in the US and Canada will be suspended. Bush will use the attacks to establish a National Missile Defense system, a plan that will tear the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Defense Treaty to insignificant shreds and lurch the world ever closer to nuclear war.

Common people of the world will suffer.

When you read this it is unlikely that the severity of this tragedy will yet be known.

Sky falling

by Spencer Maybee

The events of yesterday morning and their repercussions have left an indelible mark on each of us in a way that we will remember like a tattoo doubtless for the rest of our lives. For our parents, the deaths of JFK and Martin Luther King marked their generation because it was history they lived, that they touched or that touched them. For our grandparents it was WWII, D-Day, VE Day, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the portentous bombing of Pearl Harbour, to which yesterday's events have been unvaryingly analogized, undoubtedly due to the recent release of the film by Michael Bay (who brought us such foreboding titles as Armageddon, The Rock and Bad Boys).

The only other time I have felt like a participant or a spectator in certain history was in 1986 when we watched the launch and subsequent explosion of the space shuttle Challenger in my grade two class.

The difference between the Challenger and the American Airlines flights 77 and 11 and the United Airlines flights 175 and 93 is all too obvious. In 1986 we could only ask our gods the inevitable and unanswerable "Why?" or shake or bow our heads. This awful fall we can only ask "What next?" and wait for the answers to reveal themselves or seek them out.

The certainty of yesterday's plane crashes, two into the World Trade Centre, one into the Pentagon and one in Western Pennsylvania, rumoured to be aimed at Camp David, is that they were no coincidence. Cell phone calls from passengers and crew on some of the planes to emergency lines revealed some of the horrifying details of what was happening onboard. Each plane had between three and five hijackers aboard who used knives to force the passengers and crew including the pilots to the back of the plane. In at least one case one or maybe more stewardesses were killed before the planes crashed. The planes were guided into the buildings presumably by the hijackers themselves. Any pilot would have his or her life taken before they would acquiesce to that demand. I heard from a friend who was up early this morning listening to CBC that another plane was reported to have crashed in Colorado near or on the NORAD base, but that the CBC had stopped reporting on it almost as soon as it happened. A call to NORAD elicited the predictable response:

"No plane crashed in Colorado," said the woman on the line. If NORAD was damaged, destroyed or otherwise incapacitated there is no way that the public would hear about it. Confessing absolute vulnerability to air and space attack of all kinds would be a death knell for the US in the ring of world power. Regardless, 250 firemen are dead, 266 passengers and crew, 800 or so Pentagon staff, 78 or so police and countless New Yorkers.

What's left? I can think of a Bukowski poem where he describes the naivet of his company by disparaging them as people whose "cities have never been bombed."

If anything, the North America of today is growing up in a way that it hasn't since the US Civil War.

The US and their allies are potentially under threat. By whom is the question that will be in the news for weeks to come. We may not learn just whom or how they were involved until years laterówe're still learning about JFKís assassination. Books like Norman Mailer's Harlot's Ghost use fiction to get closer to the truth than non-fiction will ever be able to. In times like this, when we are mired in the history we are trying to study, this speculation is all we have. It is this speculation that media outlets will make their primary activity now that the few facts we know are out, but the story is still incomplete.

The media speaks of the "sophistication and co-ordination" of "such a major conspiracy" and how it could be concealed from international intelligence agencies. What strikes me most is the simplicity of the terrorism. It could have been planned by the simplest minds. All that is needed is: a flight schedule for the major airlines; a little structural analysis of the targeted buildings; airline tickets; and several groups of people with exacto-knives, swiss army knives, plastic knives and an immortal belief in an ideology that places the US military, the World Trade Center and all that they symbolize and all who participate in their activities as irreconcilably antithetical to whatever it holds as good or right. Anyone capable of planning a weekend baseball tourney could have planned it. Almost anyone could have executed it. But historically only fanatical religious terrorists have a pattern of self-sacrifice to their terrorism.

As a result, the media and many US government spokespeople hold Osama bin Laden as the prime suspect as he has declared his violent and absolute opposition to the US and all that it represents. Housed by the Taliban in Afghanistan, he has denied connection to the hijackings, as he has denied his connections with all the other bombings that have been attributed to him. An assault on the Taliban earlier yesterday evening was thought to be a retaliation for what is being called an attack on the US, but the US Secretary of Defence denied any connection to the attack. US involvement in the Bay of Pigs invasion was denied similarly, though that isn't necessarily relevant. Bin Laden said that it was an American party that was responsible. He might not be wrong.

The World Trade Center was a functional symbol of US economic power. The Pentagon is a functional symbol of US military power. The United States holds the world under threat of economic violence or military violence simply by the fact that it has the power to destroy by fire or by economic famine almost anyone or anything, and depending on which political entities you are allied with, that threat is either implicit or explicit. The implicit threat of military action, be it from the US or from anyone, is the reason that every sovereign nation has and needs a military. But these attacks don't seem to be the work of any sovereign nation, but rather a nation without property, a nation of an ideal.

A nation is an idea. An ideology. As Bush would have the world believe, the US is a nation whose guiding idea is freedom. We will hear that word littered throughout the media until it looses any shadow of meaning that it might have left in an attempt to give to it the meaning and feeling that the images we've seen on tv since yesterday morning inspire in people all over North America. And, as Bush would have the world suspect, the nation whose guiding idea is "evil" is bin Laden's nation of Islam.

Here is where my own naivete and my own egocentricity steers the speculation. Who else would do this? Who else holds the US in such contempt, particularly its economic power and its military force? I think to the places I know that I've seen violent adversity in which the ideas represented by the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were participant in conflict. Vancouver's APEC Summit in 1996. Seattle in early 2000. Washington D.C. later that year. Quebec City in April of this year. These are the places where I've seen thousands of people show their opposition to these represented ideas in the only way in which they are legally endowed: non-violent protest. And at all these protest there were groups dissatisfied with the slow, seemingly impotent process of non-violent protest. Even the common ideas of the peaceful protesters would steer North America far to the political left of the currently implemented ideas of the political powers. Yesterday's events could be seen as a drastic jerk of the wheel, or a bullet to the chest of the driver, to the engine block, by a group of aggressive radical left-wing activists.

That an attack of such "sophistication" could slip through the massive wire-tapping and monitoring of suspected terrorists by US intelligence would be no surprise if the attack was planned by an unsuspected entity. The weapons that were used were airplanes, civilian transport, and knives, domestic tools. Not bombs. Not guns. Is this another civil war? Possibly.

But if I'm right, if radical left-wing activists have declared war on the North American status quo, then I'm left with one other, more dire question that runs deeper than the question "Who?" that we're all asking. The question is, "Which side am I on?"

For the sake of sleep, I'll hang on to what's certain: the sky has fallen; the world is changed. For the sake of sleep, I'll call myself a fool. Maybe I'll hope to still be a fool in the morning.

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We are looking for:

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Drop by the office, SUB b011 + talk to Lisa

Don't like what you read? Write, write, write, gimme gimme gimme: **martlet@uvic.ca**

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LETTERS

To the Editor:

It was nice to come find a new copy of the Martlet waiting for me when I got to school. I grabbed it and noticed shiny paper in the middle. In the past the student paper has been free of flyers and I was disappointed to have to fill up the recycle bin with something I had no desire to read. The Student Union and everything representing us should be on the cutting edge of environmental Stewardship. We are not, the Food Services use to much paper such as disposable cups etc. I would like to see the Student paper at least free from this disgusting corruption. Please find funding elsewhere or include ads in the actual news print.

Sky Lehman

UVSS Nuclear Deterrence

Brothers and sisters, I am concerned for the safety of UVic. U of T has a nuclear reactor, and with the right rocketry program, they could become a nuclear power within a matter of a few weeks.

What if UBC were to develop similar technology? With there close proximity to UVic, there would be less than three minutes warning before missiles started landing on Ring Road.

The best way to avoid a nuclear conflict is to possess such an overwhelming nuclear arsenal that any attack upon our soil would be utterly futile, resulting in the absolute destruction of the enemy. We cannot let another power develop a nuclear arsenal in our hemisphere before us. Our lives cannot be held ransom by another universities' nuclear sabre.

UBC and U of T must come to fear the war making potential of this university. Only then, once they fear their own destruction, can we be certain to avoid a nuclear exchange. I call upon our student government to take decisive measures to ensure the security and prosperity of our university. UVic must posses a creditable nuclear deterrent. Failure to act will mean our demise, we must act now!

Curtis LeMay
UVic Young Republicans

STUDENT VOICE

Waitlists, lineups, space limitation hell

by Simon Glezos

There's a word in the english language that we don't use much, but seems to say a lot about how most people feel our society should, and for the most part does, work.

The word is meritocracy and it represents the notion that in life, success is reflective of merit. This means that those who are smart, those who are strong, those who work hard and stay focused will be rewarded. Now say what you will about this model, but for better or worse, it's the way things work.

And so, from a very young age, we take this model to heart, and begin the process of wending our way to the top of the ladder. We work hard in our high school classes to raise our GPA. We participate in extra-curricular activities to show how well rounded we are. We perform charity work, to show what good-hearted people we are. And then we write it all down in our application forms and, if we are found sufficiently full of merit, we are admitted to university and become members of the academic community.

From there the process is simple. We work long and hard at our chosen field, eventually graduating with honours. We then get a job doing what we're trained for and, by working even harder, we rack up success after success gaining the acclaim of our peers and the respect of the community in general.

At least that's the way it's supposed to work. As anyone who's spent more than an afternoon wandering the halls of academia knows, one's success depends on a lot more than just how smart you are and how hard you work. It depends on the people at the student loan office getting around to sending you your loan early enough to be able to pay your tuition, and maybe even buy some groceries as well. It depends on being able to find an affordable place to live in a particularly brutal housing market.

It depends on your department getting enough funding to be able to hire enough teachers, so you're not 43rd on the waitlist for a class you need to graduate.

It depends, in short, on being lucky. Lucky to be affluent enough not to need a student loan, lucky to get into residence, lucky to be in a department that was deemed worthy of adequate funding.

And so we struggle along, dodging any number of obstacles which have nothing to do with our abilities to calculate the velocity of objects in a vacuum, or analyze hegelian dialectics, or any other things our academic success is supposed to rest on. As we go, some of us of a global bent, more inclined towards kneejerk liberal guilt might realize the truly staggering amounts of luck that were necessary to achieve even this tenuous success.

Our success here is entirely based on the fact that we were born in a country with a good enough health care system to keep the infant mortality rate down. That we weren't caught in a civil war or trade embargo. That we had access to relatively good (if underfunded) public schooling. That we live in a country where university is only mildy economically prohibtive, rather than hugely economically prohibitive.

So what's the point?

That all our hard-work, struggle and big, hulking grey matter is actually for naught? Probably not, if for no other reason that that's pretty tough on all our egos. That we should feel desperately guilty for our success? Well, maybe, but I'm not sure how productive it would be.

What would be productive is an awareness of the amazingly contingent nature of that success. To seek an environment where people who can succeed in university (oh hell, in life) aren't kept from it by structural condition, and that those already in university don't have to put day to day survival on top of an already burdensome workload. You know, to work towards one of those meritocracy things I was talking about at the top of the page.

SOAPBOX

New loans system a pain in the arse

by Kevin Groves

Did your student loan come on time?

Well mine didn't, and as I sit at my computer writing this I am eating reheated sausage rolls from a box in preparation for a trip down to the Royal Bank to use my credit card again to pay utility bills.

Normally this wouldn't phase me. Like many career students who don't live with their parents, don't know what co-op is and use the black hole that is the student loan program, I have had to come to grips with being poor. Looking back on my tender teenage years I realize that some of the things I put up with now would have made me recoil in horror back when I lived in the microcosm of my parents' house.

But one thing that I do not appreciate is being made to suffer unnecessarily by a for-profit company that is now administering the student loan program, and does not seem to be keeping in mind that students like me are counting on their loans to arrive on the disbursement date to pay for things like books, tuition, food, rent, bills, and the occasional copy of MAD magazine to while away the time in between periods of frantic studying.

At least I can take some small comfort in knowing that the banks are not in charge of running the student loan program anymore. Between 1995 and 2000, when the banks had their risk sharing agreement with the federal government, you could almost hear the grumbling of students across Canada for two reasons.

The first problem lay in the banks' attempt (shockingly enough) to turn a social program into a profit-making venture which undermined the original purpose of the Canada Student Loan Act: to make education more accessible. Second, the banks simply provided very poor service to students, which I'm sure anyone who's ever tried to wrest their interest relief from the unhelpful tellers at Royal Bank can attest.

Oh, and then there were the credit checks implemented on student loans and the amendment to the Bankruptcy Act to include a ten-year ban on students declaring bankruptcy after graduation, since it simply wouldn't do for the banks to lose their money, would it? Now, though, students can look forward to the loan program being administered by two for-profit companies who were contracted out by the federal government last December.

Only problem is that the main one, Edulinx, seems to have ignored what date was on the ominously gray government form that every student gets when notified of loan acceptance. Mine specifically said that I'd receive my loan on September 5th, but as I made the trek up to the bank machine on the appointed day to see if my balance was still zero I was shocked to realize that my balance had not budged from its established nothingness, and I did indeed have no money to buy the books I needed for my courses.

Suddenly I was not smiling anymore.

I figured, OK, maybe it will be in tomorrow, but when three tomorrows passed I began to lose patience and made a phone call to the National Student Loan office to find out what was going on. After listening to the automated voice message system and then being put on hold, I eventually talked to someone who assured me that my loan would be in my account in four days due to "processing time."

Where was that on my disbursement form? I must have missed it in between the baffling stream of legalese that seems to permeate student loan documents.

Then I started asking around and discovered that I was not alone. More seriously, though, I learned that other students had been told different things by Edulinx, like their loan would be in their account in 48 hours, three days, five days, or whenever Edulinx decided to get around to it.

When was this part of the arrangement when I signed up for a student loan? Is not the whole purpose of this program so I can pay for my fees on time?

I am very tired of hearing about federal and provincial governments who jointly pay lip service to the Canadian view that health care and education should be the two most important areas of government spending, and then contract out the student loan program to a company that does not seem to be keeping the interests of students paramount in their administration of a vital government service.

When will the feds finally take responsibility for their own actions and fund the student loan program openly and directly? When also will they finally implement measures to address the crisis of student debt? All the service provisions in the world will do nothing for students facing debt loads of over $25 000, they certainly won't help me as I approach the wrong side of an already astronomical repayment figure for anyone.

Now that the banks are out of the picture, it is up to us to make sure that the government organizations that are theoretically accountable to us be made to understand that the student loan program is something that must be administered with efficiency.

Maybe then I wouldn't be eating reheated sausage rolls and using my credit card to pay utility bills.

Local filmmakers take one-piece format to next level

Scrapshots crew set to take George and Dragon by storm at independent film extravaganza

by Kevin Groves

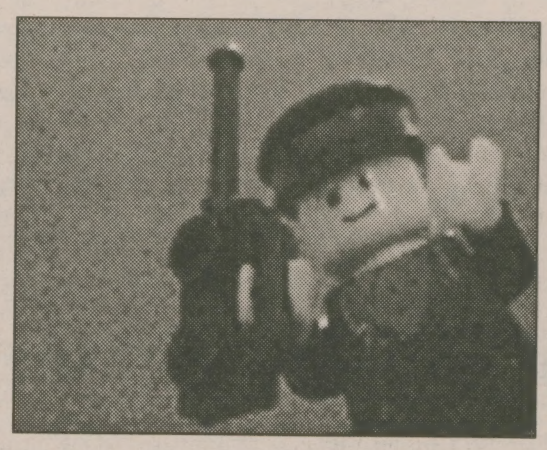
They are Victoria's lone gunmen, searching the 'burbs, looking for new and exciting places to shoot. Armed with their weapons of choice, these modern day rangers meet at the George and Dragon monthly to pit their skills against each other in a free-for-all of epic proportions. Only one winner rides off into the sunset safe in the knowledge that their bragging rights are secure for another month.

No, this is not an advertisement for the latest John Wayne spaghetti western, but for the 16 aspiring Victoria filmmakers looking to be the next Kevin Smith – skilled in the ancient art of independent film – keeping a cool head in the Scrapshots! competition is just as important as staring squinty-eyed down that dusty street at high noon, with Ennio Morricone's score from *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly* screaming in the background.

"It's a lot of fun," said Spencer Estabrooks, a former winning filmmaker involved in the latest competition. "Scrapshots! is a great opportunity for people to flex their filmmaking muscles in a challenging way that breeds creativity."

The contest started last April, and is the brainchild of Donovan Aikman, a long-time member of the CineVic organization, which aims to further the growth of independent film in the garden city. Aikman said that he first had the idea for Scrapshots! when he saw a film competition on a trip to Japan.

"They were using a format called the 'one-piece,' where you shoot the video in



digital, but can't move the camera around in any way," Aikman said. "So what you end up with is one continuous shot, with no cutting or post-production allowed."

Liking what he saw, Aikman decided to import the idea to the mean streets of Victoria. Pulling a couple of interested filmmakers together, Aikman had them agree on the rules and a deadline, and then the group disbanded to work their magic, coming together again only after the deadline for a screening, like Highlander immortals answering the call of the Gathering. The contest was so successful that it has now become a regular occurrence, with new twists dreamed up by the filmmakers each month to keep it fresh.

"Since April we've had five successful Scrapshots! every month, and we change the rules slightly each competition to make it interesting," Aikman said. "This month we've allowed for one zoom in or out so no filmmaker has the advantage over anyone else."

Filmmakers involved in the contest agree that the specific guidelines required by a one-piece format are quite a challenge and force the individual to be more creative and look at shooting things from different perspectives.

"I try to be as clever as I can with my camera," said Ed Chen, whose first short entitled David Copperfish was shot from the bottom up on a glass table, and involved fire, liquor and glass, under the assurance that no fish were harmed in the making of the production. "I've also seen shorts where the camera was mounted on top of a toilet stall," he added.

As far as content goes, filmmakers said that any topic capable of being captured by the digital eye is fair game as long as it conforms to the rules of the contest and performs the most important task of satisfying the audience. Some of the many ideas that have been used include a cityscape scene from the knees down of a busker, and a short of two Lego figures holding a conversation about the meaning of life.

"Basically you can do pretty much anything you want," said Steven Myhill-Jones, who recently had his colleague Estabrooks run through UVic's University Centre dressed as giant tampon, shouting lines like "think outside the box!" in a pseudo-existential comment about the meaninglessness of a worker's existence.

all photos provided

You'll have to wait for my unauthorized biography to find out my reaction about being pitched as a giant tampon. That's definitely for my memoir. Thank God I had coffee.

Spencer Estabrooks

"That was a really brave thing to do," said Kim Robbie, a fourth year Biology student at UVic, "I wouldn't have done that."

Myhill-Jones assured the Martlet that he had a definite plan in mind when he cast Estabrooks as a giant tampon.

"It was ultimately meant to be a comment about a guy suckered into a job that he will hate," he said.

Estabrooks added that the three minutes he did the short, where he was required to try and hand tampons out to students, were some of the most nerve wracking of his life.

"You'll have to wait for my unauthorized biography to find out my reaction about being pitched as a giant tampon," Estabrooks said. "That's definitely for my memoir. Thank God I had coffee."

When asked if Estabrooks plans to return the favour, Myhill-Jones said that he's just as in the dark about what Estabrooks is planning as anyone else.

"Since we're competing, I'm not sure what he's doing, but we help each other with the filmmaking," he said. "We're not making them to win."

Screenings were originally held at the Mocambo café on Blanshard street but have since been moved to the larger George and Dragon as they grew more popular. Once the shorts are shown, audience members are required to assign a number of points for each show which are then tallied up at the end to declare who walks away the monthly champion.

"Basically it's all about the audience deciding how good a show is," said Derek Van Derkamp a 3rd year Physics student at UVic who also moonlights as a Scrapshots! filmmaker, "We've had them at the George for awhile and they're a lot of fun."

Estabrooks added that stacking the audience in a filmmaker's favour won't help you win in a screening.

"[The screening] is basically the Iron Chef of filmmaking," he said. "I've seen guys bring in as many of their friends as possible and still lose."

To keep things particularly interesting at a screening the audience can be compelled to condemn a short to the wall of shame by yelling "gong!" which will then result in it being stopped immediately and barred from the competition. Such occurrences, though, are said to be rare.

"I built the gong and so far I'm the only one who's had it used against me," said Douglas Ozeroff, vice president of Cinevic. "That was back in April at the first Scrapshots!, and at the time I'd done something wrong with the audio and it was actually kind of a relief to be gonged."

Once a winner is proclaimed, another quirk in the program requires that the winner construct their own trophy in a frenzied trip to Value Village with results that have bordered on the surreal. Some of the past trophies have included a Wendy's crown, a camera with a gold painted handle, and the most notorious by Estabrooks, which combined the base of a toilet plunger, a street lamp bulb, fishnet stockings, and sparklers.

Filmmakers refused to comment about what they have on the burner for this month's competition, saying that it's all "top secret," but Aikman said that spectators can continue to expect quality independent filmmaking from the Scrapshots! crew in the future.

"What I like most about Scrapshots! is that it gives the audience a chance to see some Victoria stories rather than watching a studio show, and if you don't like what you see, you can always go up and talk to the filmmaker," Aikman said. "We've been getting some packed houses lately, and we plan to continue this competition indefinitely."

The next Scrapshots screening will be held at the George and Dragon on September 25th at 7pm.

How to get to know your prof:

Competing with your fellow classmates for a limited amount of your professor's time can be a challenge these days. Fortunately, most profs are very approachable and helpful to students who are keen to get the most out of their educational experience. Here are some tips to help you maximize the time you spend with your prof outside of the lecture hall.

1. Keep track of what's going on by attending classes. Even if you aren't a regular contributor to class discussion, you'll know what's been covered and what's been left out.

2. Know the subject as well as your time and research allows. This means you have to at least do the assigned reading and go over your notes. If you have some time do some extra reading, go to the library, look at what's been said on the Internet or start a study group. Then decide where your learning can be supplemented with a conversation with your prof in their office.

3. Engage yourself with some original thought. Take what you've learned and think about it. Respond to it in a unique and original way and bounce your response off your prof. This will also help you pick less obvious essay topics or projects that will be more likely to elicit a positive reaction or catch the attention of your prof. Remember that profs learn from their students just as much as students learn from them.

4. Make use of the tools available. Your prof's e-mail and voicemail are a good place to start. These are two tools that make growing class sizes easier for profs to manage. If you have some questions about the day's lecture, note them in an e-mail or leave a voice message saying what you're interested in discussing and asking when the most appropriate time to meet would be.

"Challenge minds, change worlds."

Sure UVic's motto inspires us all, but let's get serious for a minute -- is university really that simple? We'd all like to think that it's as easy as in and out; four years of serious studying, then off to make the world a better place.

New students already know there's more to UVic than the many hours spent in class. Anyone who's been around ring road can testify to that. You have to know your school to get the most out of a university education, and to make the most of the massive amount of time you will likely spend here in the next eight months. Here are a few interesting tips to help you get through your stay at UVic.

Line-ups at Clearihue's computer lab can be intimidating. Head directly downstairs or check out any of the less-frequented labs, such as downstairs at the Business and Economics Building or the Human and Social Development Building.

Always check the shelves at SUBtext in the SUB before buying textbooks – especially if you'll be using older editions – you could save a lot of cash!

UVic has its own small art gallery – the Maltwood in University Centre. Admission is free and exhibits change periodically throughout the year.

Looking for a student job or work study position? Go online and check out www.campusworklink.com. The site has tons of listings in many fields especially for UVic students. Or stop by the Student Employment Centre next to the bookstore.

Wanting to get in shape this year? Don't be shy - UVic's sports facilities are world class. Tip: the McKinnon weight room is small but free, and not as busy as the larger one at the Ian Stewart Complex.

Best place to study? Try almost anywhere. UVic has one of the most beautiful, green campuses in Canada. In warmer weather any grassy knoll outside will do. Later in the year try upstairs in the University Centre for a nap before hitting the books – if you're lucky you might even find a seat. Sit beside the Munchie Bar, the Upper SUB Lounge or try those comfy window spots in the upper floors of the library.

Ride share board: Need a ride or have a spot in your car? Post it at the rideshare board beside the elevator on the main floor of the SUB. Seen recently: several spots in a small airplane going to the Queen Charlotte's.

Felicita's hot chocolate: The hot chocolate in the campus pub is not only better tasting than

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what's served at Bean There in the SUB but it's a whole buck cheaper per cup. It's a great place to sit and study for an hour or two, if you can stand the rowdies. Not to mention the food (pack a lunch).

Cinecenta latenight: come out for the midnight movie dork ambience. There's something about latenight screenings where shouting out the well-known dialogue bits, cheering vehemently for the good-guys or laughing like a drunk moron is okay. Pick up a discount pass at our own on-campus cinema instead of paying regular student price for any film. Cinecenta offers a ten film pass for $37.50 to UVic students. Ten movies for the price of four downtown.

The Grad Centre is reported to serve excellent breakfasts and is rumoured to allow you to charge booooze to your mealplan. I'll have an omelette and a rye and ginger. Please.

Echo wall: the echo wall surrounds the Fine Arts building and the Pheonix Theatre. Find the circle between both buildings, stand exactly at the centre with your back to ring road and talk to the little brick wall. Try it after a dose o' SUB night for added fun and humour.

Mystic Vale: this lush forest on campus grounds is behind cluster housing and across the street from the engineering building. Students once fought hard to preserve this oasis so use it and love it.

Jogging trails: they weave in and out and around the campus. The trails are pretty safe for the most part, but be wary at night.

Frisbee golf: there are at least two established object courses around campus. Look for the disc nerds aiming the discs at various trees and road signs. No aiming at the bunnies!

Take in a student production at the Phoenix Theatre. Students pay half-price on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Support local talent!

Need some down-time? Take a walk through the peaceful Finnerty Gardens to get your head together.

Any vegetarians on campus? It may seem bleak at first, but try out Felicita's veggie burger – it's delicious!

Lastly, enjoy your year (or four) at UVic. No matter what you study, take time to poke around campus, remember not to stress too much and have fun – UVic's a great school with much more, as you'll soon discover for yourself.

photos by Richard Warrington and Nicole Anthony

And why?

Your profs are there for you. Get to know them, visit them in their offices.

The human touch: "What does this chaos theory diagram mean?" You don't want to get all of your learning out of lectures, notes and textbooks. Meeting your prof in office hours is the ideal way to supplement the learning you've already done with some challenging and interactive conversation.

Synthesis: "Did Francis Bacon really write all of Shakespeare's plays? Where did that rumour come from?" Profs can provide informationand context in your area of interest that wouldn't necessarily be easy to find among the regular channels.

Anecdotal information: "What was it like to be political scientist living in Quebec during the referendum?" Your profs have been living and breathing their subject matter for a lot longer than you. They're bound to have advice and stories that would be an interesting and essential supplement to your learning.

Connections: "I really want to get a job working with chimpanzees in Uganda but I dont have a clue where to start looking." Some of the best jobs aren't posted in the local classifieds. Besides, it's often true that employers look at who you know not what you know. Profs can help you find a job or internship through the network of professional and personal contacts they've established.

Recommendation letters: "How do I make sure that I'll get accepted to the grad school program I've always wanted to go to?" You take care of the grades and experience. Beyond that, the most important part of a grad school application package is letters of recommendation from your profs.

Why not? When else are you going to have a handful of expert brains to pick that are available to you for no extra charge after you've already laid down cash for tuition and books?

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Canada

Visual transition: twelve Mexican artisits in B.C.

by Kelsey Dundon

Racing between classes, a small corner of University Centre is easily overlooked be the average student.

The Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery is the campus' home for various art shows and it currently displays a collection of ceramics, paintings, textiles, photographs and sculptures created by twelve Mexican artists living in British Columbia. Entitled Visual Transistion, the collection is flavoured with traditional Mexican artisitc influence, flowing with a theme of brilliant colours, movement and culture, but at the same time tainted with solitude.

While each artist's history is unique, they all have one thing in common: They were raised in Mexican culture but are now living on the Canadian West Coast.

The pieces show the artists' constant struggle to thrive between the two cultures each in thier own way.

"The viewer witnesses the transition from a geography flooded with light to one illuminated by a yearning for form and colour, the passage from an artistic form that reflects local concerns to one that is open to its thirst for universality while retaining the ties that bind to its origins," Guadaulpe Albert, Consul General of Mexico said.

Through different mediums each artist portrays his or her experiences with this cultural division.

"Wood is the most natural material to work with," Francisco Ortiz said, whose carvings are on display, "It allows me to communicate." Joaquin Pedrero, whose prints are in the show, is equally passionate about his medium.

"I have taken the road of expressing the private theatre of my mind through photographic manipulation," he said.

Next to more traditional mediums like paintings and sculptures, there are pieces made of bronze and works created with leather and embroidery in the show. The variety of mediums is equal to the the variety of messages in the artwork. Unique choices that reflect each artists unique experience with the transition from Mexico to Canada. Within this specific theme there is huge variety and a piece to fascinate every viewer.

The collection of works from twelve Mexican artists living in British Columbia is not to be missed. Visual Transition is at the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery until Nov. 8.

image provided

What's this airy-fairy shit?

by Elianna Lev

I've never been interested in writing reviews.

I'm easily swayed and not an opinionated person, so don't take this as a review of any sort, because it's not. That said, I'll spit out my point and then you'll know the gist of my article: Belle and Sebastian are the greatest band of the current time and have been since they released their first album in 1996.

Let me tell you the story of how I discovered this marvelous septet from Glasgow.

The first time I came across Belle and Sebastian was during my second year of university. I came home to find my roommate Trisha sprawled out on our unstained cream living room carpet listening to airy-fairy crap that had strings and trumpets and flutes and men singing in high, girly voices.

"What's this airy-fairy shit?" I asked.

"Why, it's Belle and Sebastian," she replied.

That was it for then (the cream carpet now has a bunch of stains on it, by the way), I filed Belle and Sebastian up there with other airy-fairy crap like Morissey and LFO. Looking back on my thinking at the time, all I can say is that I'm ashamed and should be punished.

The second time I came across Belle and Sebastian was when I was living in New York. My hip older friend Bob was playing them.

"What's this airy-fairy shit?" I asked.

"Why, it's Belle and Sebastian," he replied.

"Oh, I hate them," I said, though I was suspicious since Bob was all about listening and doing and buying whatever was 'cool,' according to Nick Hornby or The Face or Vice or whatever. He based his life around that shit. Anyhow, that was that for then.

The third time I came across Belle and Sebastian was in third year university when I came home from a long day. My roommate Maya was listenign to "the Boy with the Arab Strap," one of their more memorabel songs.

"What is this heavenly beautifulness?" I asked.

"Why, it's Belle and Sebastian," she replied.

And that's how I discovered them, and then went out and purchased every one of their cd's (except one LP).

But who gives a fuck about me anyway, I'm taking away the much needed attention from the perfect creatures known as Belle and Sebastian. They can be deceiving, singing all melodic with flutes and bells, really pretty music that makes it easy for you to harmonize, and then throw you off guard with synthesizer beats or a sweet drum roll that surprises you.

If you listen really closely, though, you realize that they are totally fucking twisted. My mom's really into them because on the surface they're all light and breezy but then she'll be like "Did they just say she was into S&M and Bible studies?" or "What was that? I was so touched, I was moved to kick the crutches from my crippled friend."

They're also really mysterious. All their songs are like inside jokes between really smart and artsy people, but at the same time they're really eloquent and 'droll.' You have no clue what they're singing about, but it sounds neat, so you trust that it's bound to make sense to someone who's smarter than you.

So, I hope you understand my utter undying passion for this epitome of musical perfection. Belle and Sebastian are scheduled to play Vancouver on Thursday, September 13 and you're probably not going since they only had 1000 tickets.

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Clean shaven Alex Trebek considers Canadian politics

by J. Kelly Nestruck

MONTREAL (CUP) -- Alex Trebek, Canadian host of the long-running tv game show *Jeopardy!*, is reputedly planning to enter the arena of Canadian politics.

According to a recent story in *The National Post*, the Sudbury-born Trebek recently surprised contestants and producers when he returned from a lunch break with his famous moustache shorn. The new clean-shaven look has lead some political analysts to speculate that he will retire from *Jeopardy!* and run for political office.

An *Ottawa Citizen* poll conducted in 1998, showed that Canadians prefer their politicians to be devoid of beards, moustaches and mullets. "Canadians have historically – postwar – preferred politicians without facial hair. They feel that clean-cut faces are more trust-worthy," said Michael Marzolini of the research company POLLARA, who worked on the poll. "As a result, clean-cut politicians usually have an edge in elections."

photo provided

"This is one of the first things you learn in campaign management school," he added.

Some Canadian politicians have been successful with hairy faces, though. "Brian Tobin was never disadvantaged by his moustache as an MP, though it is noteworthy that he shaved it off before becoming premier," Marzolini said. "Also, politicians like former Tory MP John Bosley, who had a full beard, are not disadvantaged provided they are bald or have receding hairlines."

Canadians may prefer non-moustached politicians because of the strong association between moustaches and child molesters. According to some figures, 75 per cent of sex offenders in Illinois have facial hair.

The last prime minister to have a moustache was Louis St. Laurent, who was PM from 1948 to 1957. According to a government website, "His rapport with children proved particularly appealing and he was dubbed 'Uncle Louis.'"

Trebek made a first tentative foray into the public eye back in June 2000 when he appeared at a fundraiser for Famous People Players (FPP), a Toronto theatre troupe dedicated to the integration of the developmentally handicapped, and was honoured along with Ontario premier Mike Harris. Trebek is a long-time supporter of FPP, which is famous for its life-sized puppets. Asked whether FPP had made a puppet in his image, Trebek hinted at his political aspirations saying, "They can just take the Jean Chretien puppet and put a moustache on it."

Trebek is expected to enter federal politics, analysts say, and is expected to show exceptional skill during Question Period.

I like to see your booty shake uh-huh

by Miranda Post

It's Friday night (or Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday...). You're flush thanks to mom/dad, Canada Student Loans or a sweaty summer spent saving cash.

The back to school pheromones are wafting. Your school pals are all back and ready to rage. You're feeling energized from not using your brain for four months.

Oh what to do? Welcome to the universal student dilemma – something the calendar doesn't mention – a constant source of procrastination, consternation and dehydration. The options are oh so tempting... you could: A) Rent the latest blockbuster and pass out, waking up with popcorn stuck in your teeth and an afterhours tv snowstorm bouncing off your face. B) Do homework. C) Hang out with friends to play checkers, drink tea and eat cookies. D) Don the polyester and hit one of the many night-spots that the Garden City offers its 17, 000 young, temporary residents.

You picked answer 'D.' How did I guess? Because like me you love to dance, shake rump, bee-bop, disco-strut. When a phat beat starts your feet tap, your hips sway. Here are a few of the places in town that you can dance the troubles, mid-terms and hangovers away. Superstar ratings are based on quality of music, venue aesthetic and vibe (* = super dodgy, ***** = super boogie).

Legends

We've all been there. The lineups. The gorilla sized bouncers. The multi-level tripping trap. If you listen to the Q or Hot 103.1 then this is your destination. The drinks are reasonably priced. Monday is the cheap sauce night. It's one of the few decent live show venues in town where you can actually bust a move while the band/dj/mc is breakin it down. But my oh my that dance floor does get crowded with necking couples by the end of the night. **1/2

Monty's

Dancing. Of course there's dancing just not the kind that requires clothes. There are too many mirrors and poles for my liking. Music isn't very good either. *

Hush

Hush is a veteran. Hush is a drag queen. Hush is a survivor. The only night spot in town where the bartenders are allowed to wear 'Fisting is Fun' t-shirts and the dj is exactly eye level with the audience. Hush is Victoria's oldest techno-friendly venue. This means a lot when you've forked at least an hours' pay to see djs like Kevin Yost, Kenny Ken, Grant Plant or Rachel Auburn. It may be small and dark but it's intimate and never boring. The drag shows on Sunday are the perfect chilled out end-of-weekend activity. On Thursdays the drinks are dangerously low-cost. Then there is the ever-smiling Uncle Brent (Carmichael)- the Buddhist party animal and resident dj.****

One Lounge

Know what schmarn is? Proceed to the One Lounge for the answer. I don't dig line-ups especially for Top 40. But I get really pissed when large groups of twinkies are let in again and again while the plebs stand in the line forever. The décor is nice but not as nice as the Limit was. A prime place to pick up I suppose, if that's what you go to the bar for. **1/2

Bar Victoria

Bar Victoria has the best 80s (Poo on Wedsnesdays) night in town. It seems geared toward anyone who wants a cheap drink and mediocre music. Bar Victoria has a multi-generational thing going on; be careful because when the lights go on the wrinkles and zits come out. ***

Lucky

In terms of visibility Lucky is the place. The acts that play on the creaky old stage are visible from every point in the avant-garde, little, brick lounge. The service is high viz too, always lots of bartenders and people who know them. And the stars! Once, I bumped into Glen Clark drinking beer while Scotty Stylus was working the decks. No shit. Lucky is also one of the only bars in town with more than a one-night-a-week electronica palette. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays offer live turntablists spinning break-beats, drum'n'bass, groovy, swoony vocal house and some-old-down-home-cooked-house-music-pie from Lux'n'Mo. Not to be forgotten is Victoria's oldest running hip-hop night Stir Fry with Murge, Phlo, Salamander and the crew. The dance floor gets crowded, the wannabe art-tarts can be a bit too pensive but generally Lucky kicks it large. ****1/2

To be continued...

Next Week: Vertigo, Sweetwaters, Hugo's, Evolution and Boom Boom Room

Antimatter festival in its fourth year

by Adam Jones

Just when you think the summer fun has rolled on by you look up, way up, and see a black poster with a technicolor heat-rendered skeleton with one bold word emblazoned on its chest: Antimatter.

In its fourth year, the Antimatter Film Festival provides you with a schedule chockablock full of underground shorts you won't be seeing anywhere else. As an alternative to other Victoria film fests, Antimatter is put on by the folks from Rogue Art and remains the place to see some of the most entertaining, difficult, different and off-the-wall fare that will ever be shown in the Garden City.

"All these films are new for Victoria, we have almost 100 films culled from 500 entries, covering a range of unique and original ideas," Todd Eacrett, Antimatter's festival director said.

Antimatter, held from Sept. 14 to 22 in Open Space on Fort Street, may just be your best movie going experience in Victoria.

"It's a real accessible festival," Eacrett said. "There's always something people can take away and we like to take on an expression of the creativity outside the mainstream and corporate culture."

If you're a dilettante rather than a full fledged celluloid junkie like myself you'll probably only want to see a few screenings. Last year the talk of the fest was the items from the new Foreign Matter series. The Foreign Matter series are complete screenings of a selection of films from a specific country. The screening last year to see was the consistent brilliance of the Czech Republic, and I'm willing to gamble that one of this year's best will be among the Foreign Matter from Colombia, New Zealand and Russia.

This year there is a larger selection of films from Victoria filmmakers as well. Unfortunately there isn't one screening concentrating on local talent, so you'll be forced to pick and choose between screenings to locate those local filmmakers. There is however, a showing of purely Canadian Super-8 films, which are sure to delight and amaze.

"We've been talking about and wanting to do a feature on Canadian Super-8 for a long time now," said Eacrett. "Super-8 has been sort of rediscovered as a new medium."

Aside from Antimatter, Rogue Art remains a good public art gallery and source of unorthodox and interesting art. It's located on the top floor of the Eaton's centre.

With entertainment of this calibre in Victoria maybe we can make summer last all year long.

photos provided

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Confessions of a minor player in Campus Issues Theatre

photo provided

by Kevin Cryderman

Okay, it's late August, one o'clock in the morning, and I'm studiously trying to fashion out of styrofoam something that looks like a large phallus-shaped microphone with "WWF SEXTREME" written on the front.

I stood surveying the fake microphone (. . .does it look enough like a penis yet? Hmmmm. . .) with sandpaper, felt pens, and glue in hand.

You're probably wondering how the hell I got here? What does this have to do with being a master's student in English?

I suppose one could trace it back to my re-write of the "Sextreme Games!" No, let's run the story back even further. One day recently, my friend Alex Lisman was visiting from film school in Toronto. I, along with Alex's sister Amanda and another friend named Geoff, went on a "crazy adventure day" which included me with a guitar singing an off-the-cuff song about the glass elevator in Eaton's centre in the actual elevator to elevator riders, and us all singing a version of "Going to the Chapel" to a woman at QV's who was obviously having a bridal shower. She was dressed in a thrift-store wedding gown and holding up purple lingerie as we walked past her. She liked the song and pictures were taken all around.

After our trip to the Beacon Hill petting zoo, where we (minus the bridal party) played with goats and extensively discussed the peacock-goat conspiracy to take over the human world (oh, they're just waiting for the right time to strike), we all ended up at the George and Dragon pub where Amanda was meeting with a "Tribal Council" of sorts for Campus Issues Theatre (CIT). The theatre project is an annual 50-minute stage production that Week of Welcome volunteers write and then perform for new UVic students to inform them of some of the major issues that they may deal with in their first year.

This year, CIT constructed its own funny version of Reality TV, complete with a take-off of Survivor in which the grand prize was entrance into UVic.

Amanda, the host, and director Dick Stille (a UVic Theatre professor) invited me to write and sing a few songs, which I ultimately did. I also edited a skit called "Sextreme Games" which combines WWF-type sports commentary and Entertainment Tonight banter with the college dating scene and POP! music. For the final skit, "BBQ," I intrepidly wondered aloud if something else might work better than "Springtime for Hitler" as a musical finale and inadvertently volunteered myself to play UVic President David Turpin (while he sat in the audience!) in the process.

During the dress rehearsal performance for a crowd of WoW volunteers we were pleased and a bit surprised at the laughter.

Overall, if it had been really like Survivor, I probably would have been voted off very early. My multiple revisions of "Sextreme Games!" and perfectionist tendencies probably didn't win me any best buddy on Survivor awards. Thus, I might have never made it to the performance at University Centre on September 3, which would have been a shame because I had a fabulous time. I'd highly recommend it to students who are interested in performing or writing.

I have been voted off, though, so I won't be returning for the next Tribal Council.

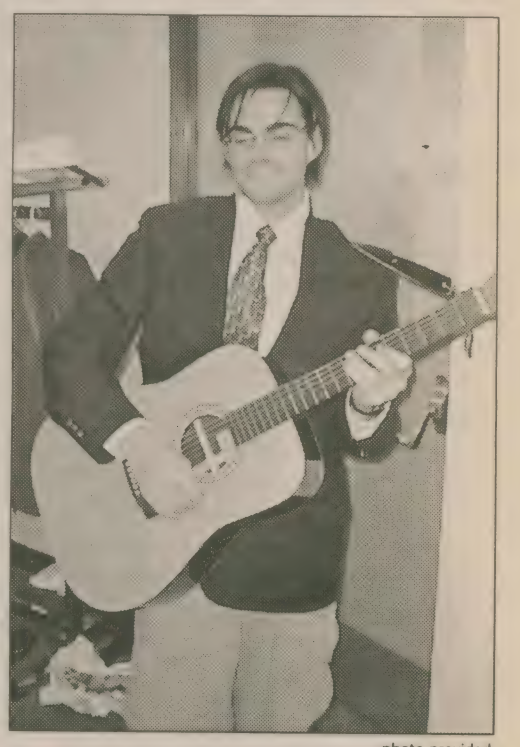


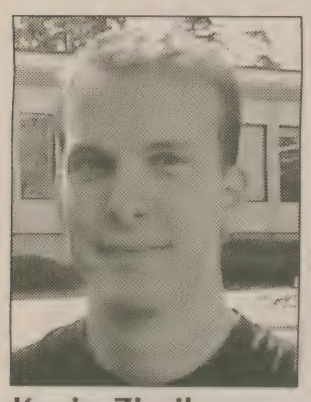
photo provided

Kevin Cryderman provides soothing music for CIT.

ON THE SPOT

What do you think of *the Martlet's* "on the spot" column?

complied by Crystal Pinarello and Ruth Knoop

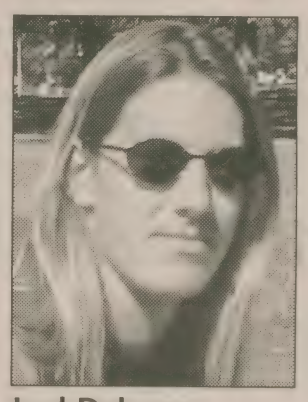


Kevin Zirvil
3rd year engineering

I feel that there is not a fair representation of the students. Science and Engineering students are not represented as well as Humanities and Fine Arts.

Andrea Zacharek
2nd year sciences

It's great. It's asking the opinions of the student body and that is what the paper is all about.



Joel Delaney
1st year music

Well, seeing that I have never read it, I think it is very informative and thought-provoking.

Celia Brownrigg
4th year english

I like it. I enjoy the candid opinions of people around campus.

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Field hockey champs strive for second straight banner

by Ruth Knoop

photo provided

Elise Roberts of the national field hockey champion Vikes protects the ball from a stiff defense during last year's CIAU tournament on the pitch at UVic.

Another school year, and another field hockey season. A season with hopes pinned on the returning CIAU women's field hockey champions, the UVic Vikes.

The Vikes hope to repeat their triumphs and turn the ninth championship season, under direction of Coach Lynne Beecroft into the tenth.

Despite losing four veterans at the end of last season, Beecroft is already busy with practices and meetings and is optimistic about the team's potential this year.

"Four stars never light up anything, it is the whole team that shines," she said.

Beecroft encouraged the players to "shine as bright as last year."

Although younger, this team has broad championship experience. As last year's hosts, the Vikes had an automatic birth to the nationals. Beecroft took that advantage and gave each team member large quantities of field and playing time.

"This is a major advantage," said Beecroft, "Everyone is experienced, not as nervous and ready to step up."

The team is concerned with the absence of veteran player Andrea Rushton who is currently overseas with the Canadian Women's Sr. National Team, and will miss the first Canada West tournament held in Calgary later this month. Her absence will undoubtedly affect the team's early season play.

Limited to a roster of fifteen players, Beecroft has chosen to take only fourteen players to the first Canada West Tournament rather than fill the vacant position with a spare only to later cut that player upon Rushton's return. Beecroft admits that having one less player puts more pressure on the team early in the season, but it also allows each player more playing time. Other notable players easing Rushton's absence are Jill Dorazio, returning after a three-year hiatus, and goaltender Gillian Batey. Batey, a last-minute cut from the Canadian Jr. National team, previously spent two years at Ohio State and one year at Camoson College.

With the experience and talent on this year's team, Beecroft anxiously awaits the first Canada West tournament where they will face teams from the Universities of Alberta, Manitoba, and British Columbia. From October 19 to 21, UVic will host the Canada West Championships.

Women's rugby rolls into a new season

by Crystal Pinarello

Coaches and players on the UVic women's rugby squad anticipate a challenging season ahead.

The team began a rebuilding phase this year after the loss of some great players at the end of last season.

Coach Jack Eastbury led the team to a third place finish at the Canada West Women's Rugby Championships last season, but now that the team has gone Varsity, the women only have a short run on the team.

Several key players were lost in the last couple of years as they graduated and moved out of the university community.

This year's group is comprised of a lot of fresh faces, which is going to mean a lot of work to bring things together in time for playoffs in October, where the toughest competitor will be UBC led by coach Spencer Robinson.

With the return of forward coach Brad Skene the Vikes will have a new edge. After being away from UVic for the last two years teaching in Calgary and coaching the B.C. women's provincial team, Skene is excited to be back with the Vikes.

"Now that I've done work with the upper level players and seen what it's like to compete nationally I hope to use what works at that level back down at a club level," said Skene.

Many players that are able to return this season spent the summer at national training camps.

"There is still a strong core of returning players this year," said Skene.

Players to watch out for this year will be Sarah Hanna, who played for the women's national under-23 team, Katie Henderson, who is a veteran to the program, and up-and-comers Erin Lockwood and Clea Bigelow-Nuttall.

Skene said he's excited and sees a lot of potential.

"These young players have a lot of athletic ability that we just need to develop," he said.

At the team's first practice last week, the players were reminded that the intensity was going to have to be at its height, especially for the first few weeks. Many of the other teams in the Premier Division where they compete have had the opportunity to play together all summer.

The Vikes, on the other hand, are diving right back into the season with their first game this coming Saturday. With enthusiastic voices echoing off the bleachers at Wallace field on Friday night, the girls demonstrated that they have what it takes to be competitive again this year.

"One thing with the women's game is if the team works together they can make a good run at it in the end," said Skene. "With hard work and dedication I think this team can do that."

UVic triathlon club prepares for its busiest and most successful season

by Tim Holloway

You don't have to be a superathlete to join the University of Victoria's triathlon club.

According to Trev Williams, club president, the club is not just for serious competitors. In fact, over 50 per cent of its members use the club for fitness and swimming.

"People are often intimidated by the swim," says Williams. "When I started, I couldn't swim at all."

Williams joined the club last September to maintain his cardio-vascular fitness after a running injury. He became the president in January because he liked the coaches and wanted them to stay.

Lindsey Starr, who joined the club at the same time as Williams, said he had a major impact on the club's development.

When swim coach Louis St. Laurent and running coach Steve Chater joined forces with Williams, member interaction hit an all-time high.

The club serves a largely social as well as physical purpose, Williams says.

"We just want to show up and gain friends of similar interest," he adds.

"It's a great place to meet people to go for a ride or swim, says Starr. "This year it's probably going to be the best it's been."

Out of 36 members in January, 26 were women. The main emphasis is for fitness and UVic's women seem more willing to give it a shot.

About six members owned roadbikes and only a couple of them were serious athletes last January. But the club isn't just for people who ride 120 kilometres a day, says Starr.

Starr and Williams were among the 12 participants from the club in the UBC triathlon last March, which is often the first competition for beginners.

Williams finished an impressive third place. However, he says the important thing is that everyone finished.

If you're interested in getting involved in the club check out their website at www.uvictri.org.

Do you like sports?
I do. You know, my first sporting event was a magical moment. I thought, "Damn, wouldn't it be fun to jump this railing and beat up the referee?"

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New-look men's soccer squad looks to the future

by Craig Battle

The Vikes have topped Canada West division standings the last three years in a row, earning a spot at the nationals each year. During that stretch the team played 30 league games and lost only a single match.

This season, despite a near complete face lift and a brand new batch of players, UVic has gone undefeated in exhibition play without allowing a goal against in six matches.

However, according to head coach Bruce Wilson, that's all about to change.

"There's no way we'll go undefeated this year," said Wilson with a laugh.

"We will make lots of mistakes."

To say it's a rebuilding year for the squad may be an understatement. The Vikes have lost seven starters from last year's squad, including reigning Canada West most valuable player Chris Craveiro and all-Canadian goaltender Dominic Butcher.

That means a whole lot of fresh faces on the field this season. The new-look club, which at last count held a total of 23 athletes on the roster, will boast 21 players in their first or second year – that count includes 13 rookies.

Team captain Nico Craveiro, Chris's cousin, will be the only fifth-year player on the squad. Without question, Wilson is happy to see him back on the team for a final run.

"He's a player we'll look to for leadership both on and off the field," said Wilson. "It's good for the young players to see a veteran player perform day in, day out."

However, Craveiro doesn't let his veteran distinction add extra pressure to his game.

"I don't find any pressure," he said. "I just have to go out and perform every game, lead by example."

Besides, it's not like he's alone out there. The Vikes also return former backup keeper Jordan Robinson, last season's top team scorer Jason Owen and central midfielder Brian Eggiman who sat out last season with a foot injury.

The Vikes have also recruited some prime young talent including sweeper Kingsley Jones, Wilson's son Derek, former Malaspina defender Jag Cajan, and keeper Trevor Stiles who all played on the provincial under-20 Canada Games team.

"All these guys have obviously played at that upper level," Wilson said.

"That is the type of player you're always looking for."

Wilson adds that the team has an ace in the hole that could help their development this season.

Since UVic hosts the Canada West playoffs this November the Vikes will receive an automatic birth into the tournament.

This allows the Vikes an advantage over the rest of the division as they can focus less on winning records and work towards hitting peak form come playoff time.

"It gives me a chance to fine tune our team," Wilson said. "If we have injuries we can rest players."

This luxury will also give the younger players some much-needed experience and a taste test of what it's like to play on foreign playing surfaces in tough weather conditions.

"We've got speed, we've got talent," Craveiro said. "But in the long run it's experience that wins games."

The Vikes will first taste regular season competition this coming weekend, as they travel to Langley to play a weekend set against Canada West newcomers Trinity Western and longtime rivals UBC.

"That'll be our biggest test," Craveiro said of the UBC match. "They'll be one of the best teams in the league for sure."

Regardless of the weekend's outcomes, however, Wilson is looking forward to the season and seeing a new team grow on the grass at Centennial Stadium.

"It's going to be an interesting year," he said.

> We've got speed, we've got talent, but in the long run it's experience that wins games.
>
> *Nico Craveiro, team captain*

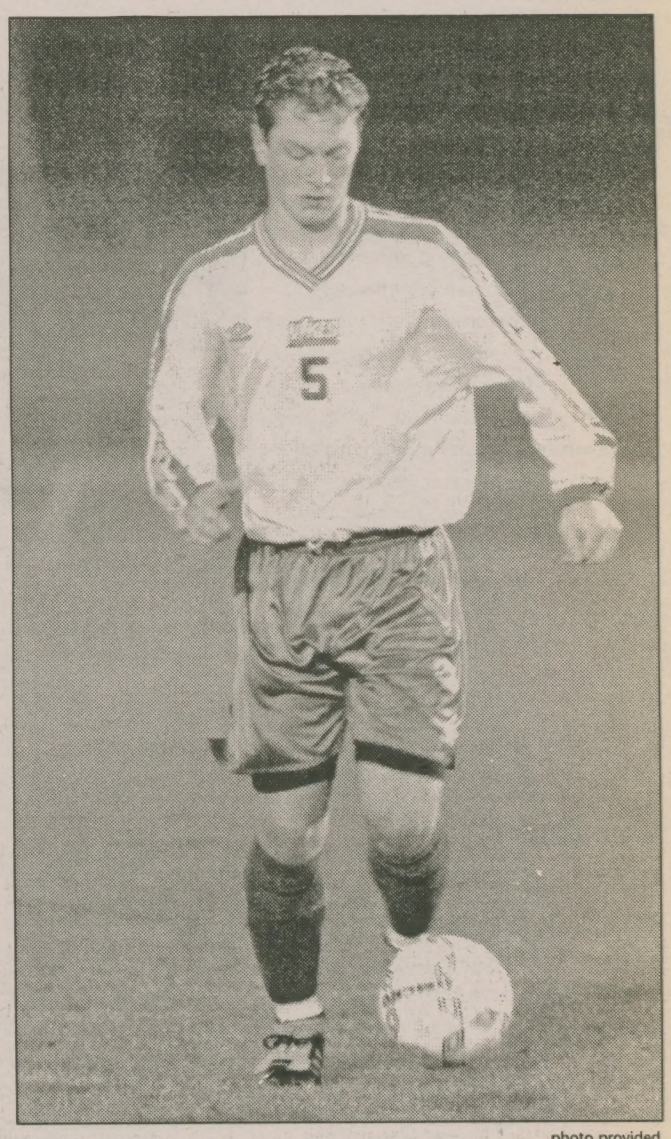


photo provided

Returning Vikes sweeper and B.C. Canada Games team member Kingsley Jones takes the ball upfield in league play at Centennial Stadium last season.

UVic women's volleyball set for another season

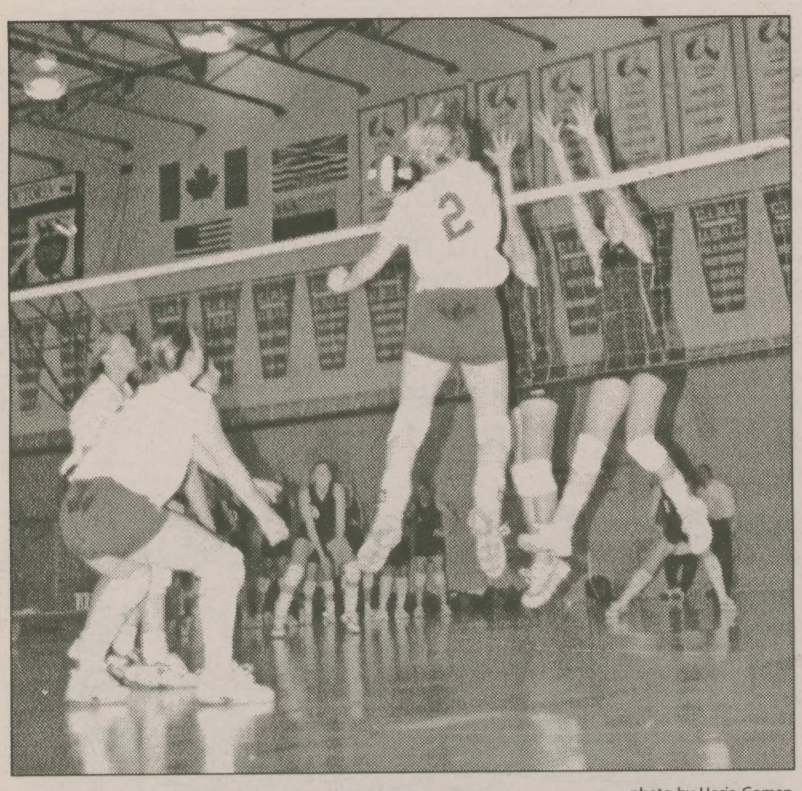


photo by Horia Coman

The UVic women's volleyball team turned McKinnon Gym into a volleyball war ground last weekend, as eight teams faced off for tournament supremacy.

by Iain McCletchie

After wandering through the abyss of British Columbia Volleyball Association tournaments for the last three years, the UVic Women's volleyball team finally has a league to call their own: the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

UVic is an independent in the NAIA, meaning they are not associated with a specific regional conference but instead have to book matches and tournaments with individual schools outside of those school's regular league play. Because of this, the Vikes schedule is made up mostly of tournaments throughout the northwestern U.S.A.

Two early season tournaments in Lewiston, Idaho, and Spokane, Washington, showed the Vikes what to expect from the new league and what the team needs to improve on in order to compete at this level. While the results weren't what the team would have liked to have seen, they provided a definite goal for the players.

According to team captain Danielle Bohemier, the differences in game style are subtle yet highly noticeable.

"It's definitely a faster game than most of us are used to because we played at the club level last year. Size really isn't as much of a factor as we thought it would be, and we're slowly getting used to the differences in speed."

While the team is adjusting to the different style of play, there are still plenty of issues for the team to work on. Most important is the matter of consistency.

"The skills are there, but we're young and inexperienced and it shows," said Bohemier. "If we can play our best, we'd compete with the top teams but we lose focus quickly. We can and have played well. We just don't maintain that."

Veteran power hitter Lauren Rak agreed with that sentiment, and added that, "Communication between teammates and trusting each other to do their job is really important. We're really inconsistent, but communication can change that."

With only five returning players, lack of experience and maturity play a big role for the Vikes. Bohemier feels this is another advantage for their competition.

"Most of the teams down there have been together for three or four years and have the experience of knowing what their teammates will do. We're young and haven't had that time together."

Even though the Vikes are struggling right now, coach Scott Thomas sounds content with what he's seen so far this season. In fact, wins and losses aren't foremost in his mind right now for a very simple reason: as independents in the NAIA, UVic only has to play sixteen games against qualified schools in order to be allowed entry into the NAIA independent qualifier tournament, scheduled for Nov. 2 in Seattle.

"Right now it's not really about wins and losses because we're simply getting in the games in order to qualify for the independent tournament."

All that said, it's still heartening for the squad to win a few matches. Last weekend was the latest foray into the world of NAIA volleyball for the team, and the results were encouraging.

> We're adjusting very quickly to playing at this level and winning at this level.
>
> *Scott Thomas, coach*

With eight teams showing up Friday afternoon for the beginning of pool play, McKinnon Gym was finally seeing some volleyball action. The first day of pool play proved a little daunting for the Vikes, as they dropped two matches to Simon Fraser University and to Northwestern College, a private school based in Kirkland, Washington.

Saturday's morning match against Trinity Western University was a chance for the Vikes to show what they could do against a top Canadian university team. After taking an early lead in the games based on some intense defensive play, UVic seemed to lose composure and focus and wound up on the wrong side of a 3-2 match score.

The loss left UVic on the consolation round of the playoffs, facing off against cross-town rival Camosun College.

Camosun took the early lead but rather than losing composure and folding, the Vikes pulled it together and thumped the Chargers out of the gym, rallying furiously for a 3-2 win.

This set the stage for a rematch with TWU in the consolation final. With the loss of key rightside hitter Kelly Latzel for the match, the Vikes simply ran out of gas and couldn't hold up the momentum gained in the Camosun match, losing 3-0 and finishing in sixth place for the tournament.

On the other side of the tournament draw, Portland State University and SFU, two of the top teams in the NAIA, battled over first place. In a match bursting at the seams with prolonged rallies and superior defensive play, Portland State emerged victorious by a 3-1 count.

While a higher finish would have been preferred, Thomas was still happy with his team's performance over the weekend and the previous three weeks.

"We've actually shown unreal improvement in such a short time," he said. "We're adjusting very quickly to playing at this level and winning at this level."

Thomas is also appreciative of the support being shown by the university while the Vikes make inroads in the NAIA.

"This means a lot to me. I'm really just the figurehead for it all. A lot of people have worked hard to get us to where we are and the whole school has contributed in that regard. To see where we are and where we've come from is great."

BILLBOARDS

ON CAMPUS

The McPherson Library Gallery is exhibiting *Liquid Bodies and Soft Bellies* by Vancouver artist and UVic alumnus Laurel Terlesky from Aug. 12 to Sept. 27.

Ride your bicycle with confidence. Bike skills courses available at http://www.biketoworkvictoria.ca/courses.html or 920-5705.

Sessions in Spirituality. The Labyrinth: Walking the Sacred Path. Nadina Stewart Schaddelee – certified Labyrinth Facilitator and Wellness Educator – will introduce the Labyrinth as a tool for spiritual awareness. Thursday September 20 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. UVic Graduate Centre, room 108.

OFF CAMPUS

CATHOLIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION Every Sunday there is a 4:00 Student Mass at Holy Cross Church, 4049 Gordon Head Rd. Welcoming Barbecue on Sunday Sept.16 at Holy Cross Parish (4049 Gordon Head Rd.) for all new and returning Catholic students and friends. Starts at 5 p.m. right after 4 p.m. Mass. Club Hike up Mt. Doug on Sunday, Sept. 22, 1-3 p.m. Catholic Students' Fall Retreat Oct. 5-7, Thetis Island. For more info about these events, contact Kate at kfagan@uvic.ca or 721-8339. Visit the UVic Catholic Students' Association page at http://www.uvss.uvic.ca/~catholic/ to find out more!

Life Drawing from Movement September 20 to November 22, Thursdays, 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. 10 sessions for $70 or $40 for fixed income. Drop-in $8/class or $5 for fixed income. Call 381-6434 to register.

The Moss Street Market is enjoying another season of organic produce and herbs, organic baked goods, crafts and a variety of interesting creations. Drop by Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to see what the market has to offer this year. The market is located at Sir James Douglas School, Thurlow + Fairfield.

Big Tree Rainforest Adventure Tours, experience the magic of strolling through thick mosses framed by thousand year old trees. Carmanah Forestry Society tours Carmanah-Walbran every weekend, student and small group rates 381-1141 carmanah@pacificcoast.net

Experience Kokikai Aikido, a non-competitive self-defense art emphasizing calmness, relaxation and gracefulness. Open house on Sat. Sept 15, 11 a.m. – 12 noon (watch or try a free class especially for beginners). Scout Hall in Gyro Park, down Sinclair Road hill from UVic. For more information phone 472-8340 or go to http://www.csr.uvic.ca/libarra/kokikai.html

Join us in celebrating Central America's Independence Day. Dance to the lively tunes of KUMBIA. September 14, 2001 3277 Douglas St. (Ukrainian Centre). $8 in advance, $10 at the door. Call 727-0263 or 920-4216 for tickets and information.

Friday September 21st, 2001. Progressive Assembly Productions presents dj John Howard at Sugar Nightclub, 858 Yates. Advance tickets available at A & B Sound, Boomtown, Stylus and Retrowear. Come enjoy the deep and funky San Fransisco sounds of house dj John Howard. Featuring local talent Trever and Liam Lux. Sponsored by A & B Sound and 107.3 Extreme.

VOLUNTEERS

Victoria Indymedia is now official! Participate by going to victoria.indymedia.org. Join the listserve or come to our meetings Sundays at 6 p.m. in Fernwood Square.

Mentors needed. Make a difference in a child's life by becoming a Mentor to an elementary school student. Visit your student one hour per week at the school and play games, sports, do arts n' crafts, bake or pursue other activities. For more information, call Bonnie at Big Brothers and Big Sisters at 475-1117 ext. 306

Volunteer in town helpers and field trailbuilders needed for weekend adventures. Carmanah Forestry Society needs volunteer coordinators, office volunteers, computer folks, artists, carpenters, writers and class 4 drivers and mechanics helpers,to help protect rainforests through public education, tours and adventures. 381-1141 carmanah@pacificcoast.net

Make a difference for women and children in your community! Victoria Women's Transition House needs volunteers for our In-House support and Crisis Line programs. Training starts mid-September. Phone 592-2927 ext. 3 for information and application package.

South-Central Vancouver Island Recreation Map, a necessity for planning your backroads adventure, showing all the hiking trails, campsites, mountain bike parks and kayaking launch sites as well as insets of the Carmanah-Walbran trail system, the Juan de Fuca Trail and Nahmint (home of the richest stands of Douglas Fir on the Island). Mail $10 cheque to CFS, 1431 Richardson St., Victoria, V8S 1R1.

Noam Chomsky isn't at UVic but he is at Haultain Video along with Fidel Castro, Howard Zinn, Mumia, Nelson Mandela, Subcommandante Marcos and Allende 1508 Haultain at Belmont, 592-5124

EMPLOYMENT

Help save rainforest...part time telephone work, phoning members for tours, map sales and donations. Experienced door to door canvassers also considered. Wages plus free day trips and weekends visiting and working in the forest. 381-1141 carmanah@pacificcoast.net

FOR SALE

1996 Chevy S10 truck with canopy, 4 cyl., automatic, metallic teal, lady driven, mint condition 50, 000 km. $10, 500. Phone: 370-2977.

Put your loan money to work! 10 candy machines, most already in locations. Make $100 a month or more by servicing them once a month for 4 hours. $500 OBO. Call Andrew 216-1694

HEY YOU

Hey Darian, you hot-ass! It's Betty and Ronnie – we're back and ready to rock.

We have been dancing together for a year and a day, making it up as we go along. This dance. This life. This story.

Amanda, thanks for everything, and I'm so glad our paths crossed all those many months ago!

Hey, how about we start a boy band. All of us. I mean you and you and you and you and you. All of us. That way we can sell out and make millions and everyone will be happy.

HOW TO OPEN A CAN OF LENTIL SOUP...
LENTIL SOUP
① PURCHASE THE CAN (OR HAVE IT DONATED)
② DRIVE HOME FROM THE STORE (OR FOOD BANK).
③ UPON ARRIVING, LOCATE YOUR UTENSIL DRAWER
④ FIND THE CAN OPENER (THIS IS A CRUCIAL STEP.)
⑤ TAKE LENTIL SOUP OUT OF THE GROCERY BAG. USE YOUR OPPOSABLE THUMB TO GRIP THE CAN.
⑥ APPLY CAN OPENER TO OUTER CAN RIDGE WITH SHARP CUTTY SIDE FACING DOWN. CLICK AND TURN HANDLE.
⑦ REMOVE LID. (DO NOT USE CAN LID FOR A FRISBEE.)
⑧ SMELL THE GLORIOUS LENTIL SOUP IN ITS PRE-PACKAGED CONTAINER.

keep those comics coming!

Volunteer Victoria

International Year of the Volunteer

For more information please, contact Volunteer Victoria @ 386-2269

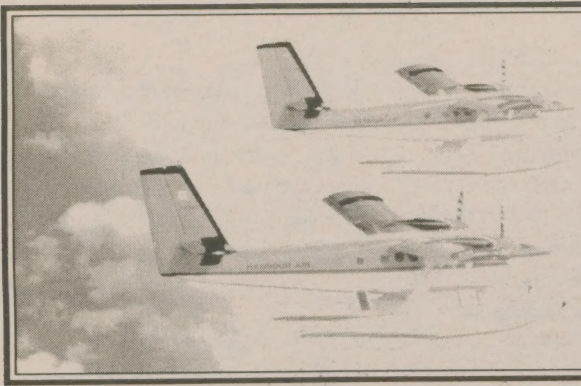
Volunteer Fair

Sept. 18 @ The SUB

Sept. 19 @ UVic Centre

9:30am - 3:30pm

Interested in volunteering your time to a worthwhile cause? Join us at the Volunteer Fair. Dozens of volunteer agencies will be there!



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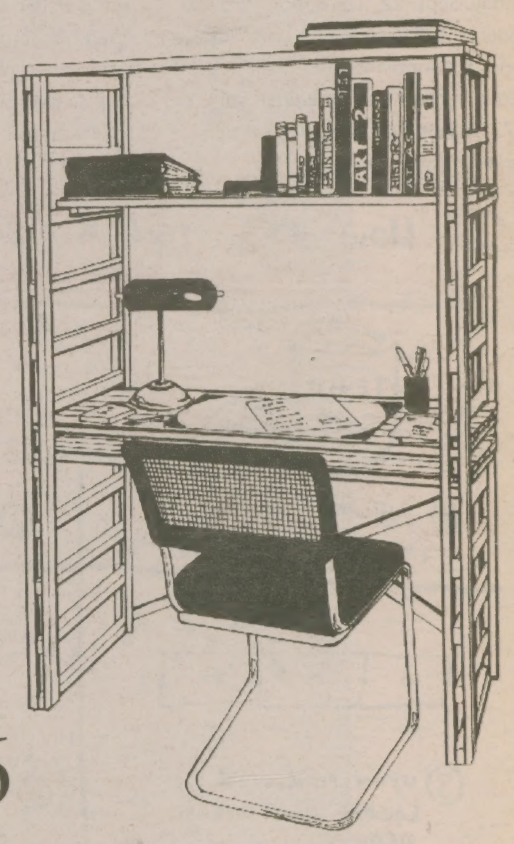
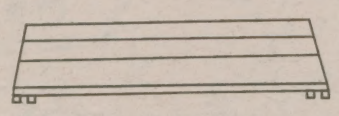


Shelvings

Narrow shelving
10.3" X 39"
10.3" X 32"
10.3" X 26"
10.3" X 16"



wide shelving
15.5" X 39"
15.5" X 32"
15.5" X 26"
15.5" X 16"

Ladders

narrow ladders
13.3" X 25"
13.3" X 31"
13.3" X 37"
13.3" X 49"
13.3" X 61"
13.3" X 73"
13.3" X 85"

wide ladders
18.6" X 25"
18.6" X 31"
18.6" X 37"
18.6" X 49"
18.6" X 61"
18.6" X 73"
18.6" X 85"

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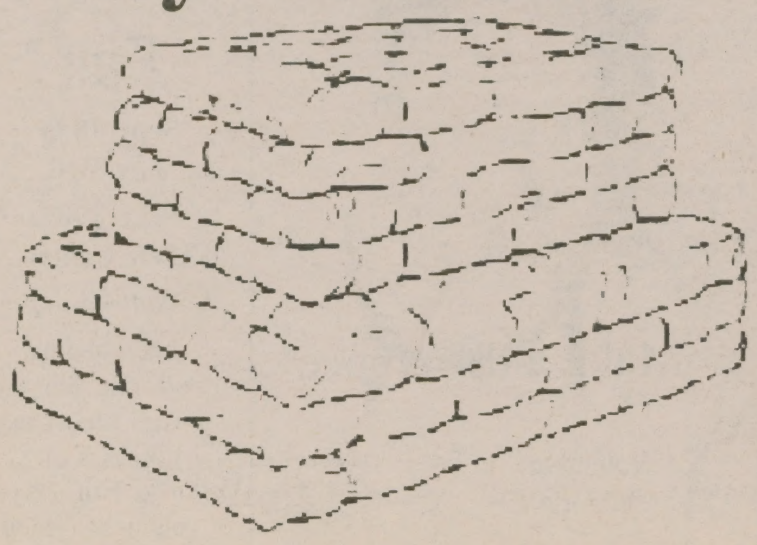

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